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C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

M. F. EGAN, Business Manager.

☞ Terms of the Daily: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (per week), 25 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), $10 00.

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☞ Terms of the Weekly: Per Year (52 Issues), $2 00; in Clubs of Twenty, $1 50; one copy Gratis to the getter-up of the Club.

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VOL. IX.—NO. 22. WEEKLY EDITION. APRIL 6, 1872.

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 28, 1872.

SENATE.

Name of the Perquisites to be Cut Off.

Mr. Billingfelt, from the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, reported further in connection with abuses in fitting and furnishing the Capitol buildings, with a bill providing that the Speaker of either House shall not draw warrants except for pay and mileage of members, and confining the chief clerks of each House to $2,000 a year for contingent expenses, under penalties of misdemeanor to all parties violating this law, their accounts to be settled as all other accounts, by approval of the Auditor General and State Treasurer. Estimates of stationery to be used in all departments of the Legislature shall be made by the Superintendent of Public Printing, Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Auditor General, on the first day of November, and advertised for proposals in two daily papers in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh; the Committee of Public Grounds shall also advertise for proposals for fuel for one year in Harrisburg dailies.

Local Option.

The bill from the House extending the local option bill to the Pittsburgh townships of West Deer, East Deer, Pine, Richland, Harrison, North Versailles, South Versailles and North and South Fayette, was passed.

The Apportionment Bill—McClure Defines His Position.

The consideration of the Congressional apportionment bill was resumed. After various minor amendments were defeated, Mr. McClure, voting with the Democrats, Mr. McClure stated that he last night voted with the Republicans against Wallace's Democratic substitute, because it was partisan, and for the same reason he should also vote against the bill as reported from the Senate Committee. He would not vote for any bill that would not give all parties equal representation. He then offered the following substitute, to which he would adhere: Seventh—Bucks; Eighth—Montgomery; Ninth—Berks; Tenth—Lancaster; Eleventh—Schuylkill and Carbon; Twelfth—Pike, Wayne, Monroe and the northern part of Luzerne; Thirteenth—Columbia, Montour and the southern part of Luzerne; Fourteenth—Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming and Sullivan; Fifteenth—Tioga, Potter, McKean, Cameron, Clinton and Lycoming; Sixteenth—Dauphin, Lebanon, Northumberland and Snyder; Seventeenth—York; Eighteenth—Union, Perry, Eighteenth—Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford and Juniata; Nineteenth—Mifflin, Union, Huntingdon, Centre, Clearfield, Elk and Jefferson; Twentieth—Blair, Cambria, Indiana and Westmoreland; Twenty-first—Greene, Fayette, Twenty-second—The first fourteen wards of Pittsburgh and the townships south of the Monongahela; Twenty-third—Allegheny city and the rest of the county; Twenty-fourth—Beaver, Armstrong, Lawrence, Butler; Twenty-fifth—Mercer, Venango, Clarion and Forest; Twenty-sixth—Clearfield, Warren and Erie. This substitute was lost by a the vote of 9 to 18, the Democrats all voting aye with McClure; absent, Senator Knight, Democrat. The Republicans all voted no.

The House bill as reported from the Senate Committee was then defeated by 15 to 17, McClure voting no with the Democrats. This is the end of any apportionment bill, unless there should be some compromise, or a new bill is offered in either House.

Messrs. Graham, Brooke and Purman are appointed the Senate Conference Committee on the annual appropriation bill.

Afternoon Session.

Mr. Wallace called up the bill for the ventilation of bituminous coal mines. Mr. Humphreys offered a substitute authorizing the Governor to appoint three commissioners, one to be recommended by the Pittsburgh Coal Exchange, to investigate the bituminous coal fields and report to the next Legislature by bill or otherwise. He read a communication from the Pittsburgh Coal Exchange, indorsing this substitute, and he presented the same as satisfactory to the miners.

Mr. Wallace opposed, and Messrs. Purman, Anderson and White Hill supported the substitute, which passed; yeas 18, nays 11, the Allegheny delegation voting aye. Before final passage Mr. Graham further amended by confining the pay of the Commissioners at five dollars per diem, for one hundred days.

Mr. Petriken's bill creating a State Board of Fishery Commissioners was passed finally, with the number of Commissioners reduced to James Warnall, William Seiler, J. McClintock Creighton, Samuel Allen and Henry Tagg. It appropriates $50,000.

The vote defeating the apportionment bill was reconsidered this afternoon on motion of Mr. Wallace, and made the special order for this evening.

Evening Session.

The following House bills were passed: Authorizing the Oakland school district to borrow money; authorizing the construction of Wilkinsburg avenue.

Mr. Graham introduced a bill for the protection of the carpet weavers of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, by preventing the managers of the Western Penitentiary from selling their manufactured carpets by retail.

A bill from the House regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors in Allegheny county, which allows the County Treasurer to give annual license on payment of $100 and sufficient bond, was passed with amendments by Messrs. Anderson and Humphreys, by making the execution of the act date from the first of May next.

The bill incorporating the Smith's Ferry Oil Transportation Company of Beaver county, coming up, Mr. Rutan moved to non-concur, pending which the House bill was passed finally, and goes to the Governor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Passed.

The following House bills were passed: Repealing the charter of the Southern Improvement Company; authorizing Bishop Domenec to borrow money on mortgage as trustee of St. Stephen's Church.

Adjourned till Tuesday.

Not a Law Yet.

Mr. Humphreys has made arrangements to hold the projected consolidation bill, which passed both houses, for three more days before presentation to the Governor, to afford an opportunity for expression of opinion.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 1, 1872.

SENATE.

No Free Pipe Law for Allegheny.

Mr. Graham opposed Mr. Rutan's substitute extending the free pipe bill to Beaver and Allegheny counties. The bill fell by a tie vote, and the original bill incorporating the Smith's Ferry Oil and Transportation Company of Beaver County was laid over, equivalent to defeat.

The Consolidation Bill.

The Consolidation bill was not reconsidered by the Senate. It will be returned to the House to-morrow as it passed the Senate, and from thence to go to the Governor, unless prevented by the House.

NATURE CONVULSED.

Additional Details of the Earthquake in California—Continued Shocks—The Scene at Lone Pine.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—Dispatches from Inyo county, four hundred miles southeast from San Francisco, give additional detail of the earthquake disaster on Tuesday last. It is remarkable that the only single slight shock on Tuesday was felt in central northern California. Cerro Gordo is badly damaged; some buildings were thrown down, but only one man killed, Lone Pine it appears was directly over the center of the disturbance. Among the killed at the latter place was Mr. Joy, aged forty-two, a native of Texas. The remainder were Spanish Americans. The first shock is described as having been like a park of artillery fired directly beneath the town. Col. Whipple, who was in the second story of a wooden house, states that he had just time to jump from his bed and get to the door when the house appeared to crumble in pieces beneath him. He was buried among the ruins, but succeeded in extricating himself from the debris and is suffering severely from painful wounds. The scene beggars description. Nearly the whole population was buried beneath the ruins. Cries for help and screams of pain from the wounded filled the air, while those who had escaped from the ruins were calling for the rescue of their fathers, brothers, sisters, wives and children. The shocks were very frequent in quick succession by three others, and over three-hundred distinct shocks were felt between half past two o'clock and sun-rise. In fact the earth was in a constant state of trepidation for over three hours. A chasm was opened extending thirty-five miles down the valley, ranging from three inches to three feet in width. Rocks were torn from their places and rolled into the valley. Everywhere through the valley are seen evidences of the terrible convulsion of nature. Intense excitement prevails among the inhabitants of Lone Pine.

A dispatch from Vizola says several shocks were felt in that city last night, and are still coming from the southeast. Persons anticipate finding an immense chasm in the mountains as soon as the storm abates and a thorough investigation. Rumors of a volcanic action having been seen on the summit of Green Hood Mountains, sixty miles south of Vizola, are in circulation, but not confirmed at least doubtful. In that vicinity the people have all left, fearing a recurrence of a general convulsion of nature. The following tradition, occurred there some hundreds of years ago and created what is now known as Owens River Valley, but what was before a chain of Mountains. The section affected by the earthquake is sparely inhabited, mainly by people working in silver bearing lead mines.

TORNADO AT ST. LOUIS.

Market House Demolished—Wonderful Escape of Crowds of People.

ST. LOUIS, March 30.—A very severe thunder and lightning storm passed over the city about eight o'clock this evening, accompanied by heavy rain. During the storm a terrific tornado from the southwest struck the large brick market house on Second street, between Spruce and Poplar, and leveled the northern half of it to the ground in a twinkling. Most of the roof and several of the heavy timbers cornered across Seventh street, and striking the building opposite knocked two great holes in it, exposing the rooms. So far as now known only five persons were injured, one, Henry Wilde, a boy, seriously, but perhaps mortally. A woman, name unknown, had a leg badly crushed, and a man unknown both arms broken. All the stalls in the market were occupied by persons making purchases, and it is very wonderful that scores of them were not killed. Aside from the slight damage to one or two buildings two or three blocks distant, no other destruction seemed to have occurred. It is likely that the tornado struck the ground only at this point, rose again and passed on in a northeasterly direction. It may be heard from at some point in Illinois to-morrow. Seventh street is blocked with debris, and parts of the market house and awnings were carried two or three blocks distant.

The following are the additional names of injured as far as can be learned to-night: John Heck, back severely hurt, causing paralysis of the lower body, will probably die. Mrs. Flori, internally and shoulder torn by a meat hook. George W. White, badly cut about the head, three ribs broken, left ankle dislocated. Henry Leppard, internal. John Berger, arm broken, and bruised in various places; also two or three others slightly bruised.

THE LATE EARTHQUAKE.

A California Town Destroyed—No Lives Lost—Great Fissures and Earth Upheavals—Heavy Snow Slides—Stage Routes Blocked by Rocks from the Mountains.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28.—A *Bulletin* dispatch to-day from Carson, Nevada, says a gentleman from Ingo county, California, where the earthquake on Tuesday morning centered, reports Camp Independence completely in ruins. The Court House was destroyed, and not a single adobe ar brick building standing from Bishop Creek to Independence. Fears are entertained for other mining camps, further in the Sogras. Mrs. West, residing near Independence, was severely injured, and her child killed. Stage passengers report several fissures a mile in length, fifty to two hundred feet wide and twenty deep, opened along the eastern base of the Sierra Nevadas, near Big Pine Camp. In other places in the vicinity the ground is heaved up in great ridges. Large springs have stopped running and others broke out. Heavy snow slides occurred on the Sierras and large rocks rolled down the mountain sides, blocking up the stage roads. The shocks lasted at intervals from 9:20 to 10:30 A. M. At Aurora, Nev., no damage was done, and at Belmont nevada only a mill machine thrown down. That section abounds with endener recent of volcanic action, but no such earthquake was felt before within the memory of Indians. Many of the people of Independence were hurt, but no lives lost. Shocks were probably heaviest southeastward toward Arizona.

LOVE, POVERTY, DEATH.

Sad End of a Massachusetts Romance.

BOSTON, March 31.—In a boarding house on Friday, the wife of Thomas Williams, a mechanic, whom she had lately married, was in her house during a long and incurable illness, died in his presence from an overdose of laudanum taken to quiet her nerves and procure rest. The husband was unable to call for assistance, and expired the next day. Mrs. Williams is said to have married against the will of her parents, wealthy residents of Newport, who cast her off, but while both were dying, a letter came offering the assistance of the long withheld. The bodies were taken to Newport for burial.

Fiendish Brutality in Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, March 28.—On Wednesday night, 20th instant, in McCracken county, four men named Bud Jackson, Billy Coerp, Weatherford and James Vaugh, went to the house of a peaceable and respectable farmer named Shelton, forced him to swallow an opiate, and left him lying insensible in the yard, while the four men entered the house and attacked Shelton's wife and daughter, the latter aged fifteen. The women resisted and were knocked down with butts of pistols. The daughter was knocked down three time, and finally both were tied down and ravished by the villians repeatedly during the night. Jackson and Coerp were captured and lodged in jail at Clinton. The others will probably be taken, as the exasperated neighbors are prosecuting vigorous search for them.

Vessel Burned at Sea—Seven Persons Lost.

NEW YORK, March 28.—The bark Nimrod was burnt off Bermuda on the 19th inst. Of seventeen persons on board only ten were saved. The vessel was loaded with naptha and kerosene, and an explosion from some unknown cause took place in the hold behind the main hatch. It is believed that the Captain's wife and daughter, a young girl, were in the cabin at the time of the explosion. When the fire was seen from the harbor of Bermuda it was too late to render any assistance.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Official Statement for March.

A Reduction of Over $15,000,000.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Following is an abstract of the public debt statement for March:

Six per cent. bonds	$1,404,398,550
Five per cent. bonds	414,567,500
Total coin bonds	$1,818,966,050
Lawful money debt	30,198,000
Matured debt	26,684,652
Legal tender notes	357,099,966
Fractional currency	42,283,709
Coin certificates	29,263,400
Total without interest	429,157,705
Total debt	$2,305,006,807
Total interest	35,957,230
Cash in Treasury, coin	120,200,610
Currency	10,431,299
Total in Treasury	130,631,909
Debt less cash in Treasury	2,210,331,529
Decrease during the month	15,481,958
Bonds issued to the Pacific Railroad Company, interests payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	64,623,512
Interest accrued and not yet paid	969,252
Interest paid by the United States	14,651,970
Interest repaid by transportation of mails, &c.	3,521,087
Balance of interest paid by the United States	11,110,782

POLITICAL.

Senator Wilson Declines.

BOSTON, March 29.—Senator Wilson declines to preside over the State Convention at Worcester for the election of delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. Ex-Governor Clifford will be invited to do so.

The Massachusetts State Colored Convention last evening chose six delegates to the National Colored Convention, which is to be held in New Orleans April 16th.

A Manifesto from Greeley and Other Liberals.

NEW YORK, March 29.—The following will appear to-morrow in the *Tribune:*

To Col. William M. Grosvenor, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Liberal Republican Convention of Missouri, Washington, D. C.

SIR: We, Republicans of New York, wish to express our concurrence in the principles lately set forth by the Liberal Republicans of Missouri. We make this departure from the ordinary methods of party action, from deep conviction that the organization to which we belong is under the control of those who will use it chiefly for personal purposes, and to distruct a free expression of opinion on important matters which the gentlemen whom you represent had before the people of the United States. We believe that the time has come when political offenses of the past should be pardoned; that all citizens should be restored to full enjoyment of the rights guaranteed them by the constitution; that federal taxation should be imposed for revenue, and so adjusted as to bear as lightly as den on the industry of the country as light as possible; that a reform in the Civil Service should be made which will relieve political action from the influence of official patronage; that the right of local self-government, the foundation of American freedom, should be reasserted and the encroachments of federal power checked. And we also believe that at this time a special duty rests on the people to do away with corruption in office. The exposures recently made in this city have brought to light evils which are not confined to one party nor to a single locality, and disclose dangers from which no portion of the republic has yet encountered. With the hope that the movement begun in Missouri may spread through all the States, and influence our political policy, we accept the invitation to meet in National Mass Convention at the city of Cincinnati on the 1st day of May next, and we invite all Republicans of New York who agree with us to co-operate in our action.

[Signed.]

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HERAM BARNEY,
W. FREEMAN,
J. FRANCIS,
GEO. P. BRADFORD,
BENJ. A. WILLIS,
HORACE BEMIS,
LOUIS LOWENTHAL.

The *Tribune's* editorial on the call says: "The letting of certain New York Republicans to Col. Grosvenor, Missouri Democrat, is the first unequivocal response from the East to the overture of the Liberal Republicans of the West in the invitation Cincinnati, Wednesday, May 1. Others will follow. There is no longer excuse for doubt that the Convention will be held, and be respectably attended. We presume that would also be important action be taken at Cincinnati, three present from each State would designate a portion of their number to cast the vote of that State in the convention. But no one is excluded from attending, and the invitation is so broad that every Republican who wishes to come is not been invited. Cincinnati proffers all a generous welcome. Whether the convention will determine to put forth a declaration of principles to present before the people, or adopt some other form of appeal to the country, no one is entitled to forecast. Whatever it shall do or decline to do will necessarily be decided all its force from its accord with public sentiment. This convention speaks with no authority, claims no power but that which will be accorded to the intrinsic worth of its acts and its declarations."

The Democrats "Hedging."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—Several Democratic members of Congress request the publication of the following paragraph: The statement recently telegraphed from this city, that at a consultation lately had by prominent Democrats with Mr. Belmont, opposition to Judge Davis was expressed, is without any foundation whatever. The subject of conference for candidates was not discussed or referred to.

Democratic Policy with Respect to the Cincinnati Convention.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The *World* to-day expresses its surprise at the invitation of the committee of the Cincinnati Convention, calling upon voters, without distinction of party, to unite with them, and says that while the Democrats are ready to co-operate with the reformers, yet it is absurd to think they are to disband their own organization by fusing with elements which might absorb them. It does not advise Democrats to give much favor to the Cincinnati movement, because by so doing the movement might suffer the loss of some of its Republican strength. "While we have said," it says, "to attach much importance to the Cincinnati movement, we will do nothing to embarrass it. The Democratic National Convention will not be held till some time subsequent to the first of May. If the Cincinnati Convention should prove to be an influential body, and the Republican party, uniting, it is quite possible that we may adopt its ticket. But we must also contemplate the possibility of its being a fiasco. The Democratic party resolutely refuses to commit its fortunes and prospects to this doubtful experiment. We shall preserve our organization and maintain our discipline, and if the platform of the Cincinnati candidates we shall do it as a united party, not as a straggling mess of disorganized voters."

Pennsylvania Delegation to the Cincinnati Convention.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 1—It is reported here that the following gentlemen have signified their intention to attend and support the action of the Cincinnati convention: Messrs. A. K. McClure, J. K. Moorhead, Judge Pettis, Darwin Phelps, George H. Irwin, J. M. McClure and Gen. Joseph Cake.

Result of the Election in Utah.

SALT LAKE, March 29.—The total vote of the Mormons of Utah on the ratification of the State Constitution is 25,234, probably one-half women. A memorial protesting against admission is being signed by all Gentiles and occasionally by Mormons. From six to eight thousand signatures are expected within a few days. The papers here are agitating the question of the possibility of civil war in Utah on the result of admission. The Mormons deny and ridicule the idea.

Strike of Coal Miners in the Mahoning Valley.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 31, 1872.

The threatened strike of coal miners in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania for an advance of twenty cents a ton after the first of April, will take place, at least in the Mahoning Valley, as all efforts to compromise with them have so far proved futile.

Justifiable Homicide

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PLYMOUTH, IND., March 30, 1872.

Kern, who shot and killed Laur here a few days ago, was tried to-day and acquitted, the jury returning a verdict of justifiable homicide.

The Earthquake in California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—Advices coming in from the volcanic country north of the Mojave river show that the earthquake on Tuesday was felt with terrific force there. At Lone Pine twenty-three people were killed and thirty wounded. Fifty houses were demolished and the town is in ruins.

South Improvement Company Wiped Out.

TITUSVILLE, March 29.—Dispatches from Harrisburg this evening state that the bill repealing the charter of the South Improvement Company passed both Houses of the State Legislature to-day.

The Evansville *Journal* cannot understand why the Democrats of Indiana should run a candidate for elector at large, when they will not intend to have any candidate for the Presidency. It does seem strange, but probably the passive 'poesumidre know all about it.

EVANS'S EVIDENCE.

Disposition Made of the Commissions.

Large Sums Not Accounted For.

ODD REASONS FOR DONATIONS.

Gov. Geary and Col. Jordan Examined.

Testimony of J. R. Dunglison.

Last week we gave our readers a brief outline of the testimony elicited from Mr. George O. Evans, State War Claims Agent, by the Joint Legislative Committee of Investigation that visited him at his room at the hotel in New York, where he has been for some time past residing. The examination was conducted by Senator Wallace, and this week we present in detail the result of the interview. It is as follows:

Q.—Were the commissions retained by yourself exclusively? A.—I collected those claims under appointment of the Governor, and retained the amount of commission myself. I cannot say they were divided among other persons. There was no agreement prior or subsequent to the appointment by which I was to give any person any share of the commissions.

Q.—Did you invest in any securities any portion of these commissions? A.—I did not. I retained the whole of the commissions. I think I am indebted to Colonel John W. Forney more than to any other man for the appointment as State agent. I am indebted also to several gentlemen connected with the Pennsylvania Legislature with whom I had no personal connection, but who were persuaded by Colonel Forney that I was a proper person to be appointed State agent. No one but Colonel Forney ever spoke to these gentlemen about it. I never paid Colonel Forney anything and never agreed to pay him anything. There was no understanding, nor agreement, nor arrangement whatever that Colonel Forney was to receive anything. He is not that kind of a man. He is not a selfish character.

Q.—Did you pay Mr. Forney, of Washington, any money out of those commissions? A.—I did pay him $6,000, which was principally for services rendered to the *Philadelphia Press.* This was forwarded about the 24th of June, 1871.

(Mr. Evans here exhibited to the committee several letters explaining how these several amounts were forwarded.)

Mr. Evans continued: On the 24th of June $3,300 was sent. I had paid him previously $1,500 on a due bill. This was sent in response to a letter D. C. Forney wrote me. Between the 18th of June and the sending of the money on the 24th of June, I did not receive any communications from Mr. Forney at Harrisburg. One thousand dollars of this was sent to Cassoway, of Washington, to give to Mr. Forney, on the 26th of June D. C. Forney telegraphed to me as follows:

Advise delivery of package on my receipt. It is in behalf of my agent. Your note may make trouble. D. C. FORNEY.

On the 24th of June, 1871, I sent by express to Mr. Forney $6,500, which was in part for money brought to light evils which are not confined to one party nor to a single locality, and disclose dangers from which no portion of the republic has yet encountered. With the hope that the movement begun in Missouri may spread through all the States, and influence our political policy, we accept the invitation to meet in National Mass Convention at the city of Cincinnati on the 1st day of May next, and we invite all Republicans of New York who agree with us to co-operate in our action.

Q.—Was there no understanding? A.—There was no understanding, nothing, no distinct agreement, at any time, as to any amount. I considered I was simply doing what was right in paying over the money.

Q.—Did you pay S. P. Brown, of Washington, any money for aiding you? A.—I did. I paid him $20,000 about the middle of May, 1871.

Q.—In whose favor was a ten thousand dollar check on the First National Bank of Washington? A.—I think it was in favor of Brown.

Q.—To whom was the $105,000 that you deposited in the First National Bank checked out? A.—It was first checked out to me or my order.

Q.—What did you do with the $82,000 that closed the account? A.—I deposited that in New York.

Q.—Did you pay any of that money to any Pennsylvania State official? A.—I did not.

Q.—What did you do with the remainder of the money you received from Harrisburg into the State Treasury? A.—I considered that all I did not pay into the State Treasury was my commission. That was a fee allowed me as a commission in accordance with the contract made with the Legislature, and I have never regarded any portion of it as money belonging to the State.

Q.—What did you do with the money? A.—I used it in connection with my large expenses in Washington, in supporting part of my family in Philadelphia and my father's family, in the payment of old debts, debts of honor (not gambling debts, as I never gambled), but debts contracted in the army and in business in which I had been engaged years before. There were investments in coal and iron operations in Pennsylvania, with which great losses were connected—in the neighborhood of sixty thousand dollars. If you want all the particulars I will be glad to give them. They are all in Harrisburg. Not a dollar was divided with any State official of Pennsylvania. There was no understanding with the Governor in regard to the disposition of any of this money. I was a perfect stranger to me at the time. I had too much regard for his position and high regard for his position and character, as I believe it to be, to think for a moment that he would be guilty of such a thing. It is absolutely distinctly state that Governor Geary, Secretary of State Jordan, Attorney-General F. C. Brewster, Hon. Thomas E. Cooney, Auditor-General Mackey or William H. Kemble never received any shares of the commissions. Not one dollar was agreed to be paid, or expected to be paid in any shape or manner whatever to these parties.

Q.—Were there no arrangements directly or indirectly after the receipt of these commissions by which any State official received any benefit in connection therewith, either in money, lands, goods or other kind of property?

A.—No, sir. I want to mention particularly Mr. Graff, Mr. Woods and Dr. Paine, my bondsmen, not having received any portion of these commissions. In regard to Dr. Paine, he came to see me while I was in Harrisburg waiting for bail. I had not seen him for a period of four years except for a few moments. I invested some of these commissions—about $60,000—in 10-40 bonds. I did not invest any in Northern Pacific bonds or stocks; no one belonging to the Legislature or in trust for any Pennsylvania State official; none of these persons named in the communications in the public prints received any portion of these commissions. Governor Geary, Secretary Shunk, William H. Kemble, R. W. Mackey, Wien Forney, Mr. J. M. McClure nor a paper called the *State Guard* received any portion of these moneys. The first batch of claims, that is in obtaining the reversal of the decisions made against the State.

Q.—In these six weeks you got the indorsement of how many claims that were reversed and the $1,000,000 allowed to the State? A.—Yes, sir, there was a great deal of clerical work required in the preparation of papers, rights guaranteed them by the constitution; that federal taxation should be imposed for revenue, and so adjusted as to bear as lightly as den on the industry of the country as light as possible; that a reform in the Civil Service should be made which will relieve political action from the influence of official patronage; that the right of local self-government, the foundation of American freedom, should be reasserted and the encroachments of federal power checked. And we also believe that at this time a special duty rests on the people to do away with corruption in office. The exposures recently made in this city have brought to light evils which are not confined to one party nor to a single locality, and disclose dangers from which no portion of the republic has yet encountered. With the hope that the movement begun in Missouri may spread through all the States, and influence our political policy, we accept the invitation to meet in National Mass Convention at the city of Cincinnati on the 1st day of May next, and we invite all Republicans of New York who agree with us to co-operate in our action.

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The *Tribune's* editorial on the call says: "The letting of certain New York Republicans to Col. Grosvenor, Missouri Democrat, is the first unequivocal response from the East to the overture of the Liberal Republicans of the West in the invitation Cincinnati, Wednesday, May 1. Others will follow. There is no longer excuse for doubt that the Convention will be held, and be respectably attended. We presume that would also be important action be taken at Cincinnati, three present from each State would designate a portion of their number to cast the vote of that State in the convention. But no one is excluded from attending, and the invitation is so broad that every Republican who wishes to come is not been invited. Cincinnati proffers all a generous welcome. Whether the convention will determine to put forth a declaration of principles to present before the people, or adopt some other form of appeal to the country, no one is entitled to forecast. Whatever it shall do or decline to do will necessarily be decided all its force from its accord with public sentiment. This convention speaks with no authority, claims no power but that which will be accorded to the intrinsic worth of its acts and its declarations."

The Democrats "Hedging."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—Several Democratic members of Congress request the publication of the following paragraph: The statement recently telegraphed from this city, that at a consultation lately had by prominent Democrats with Mr. Belmont, opposition to Judge Davis was expressed, is without any foundation whatever. The subject of conference for candidates was not discussed or referred to.

Democratic Policy with Respect to the Cincinnati Convention.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The *World* to-day expresses its surprise at the invitation of the committee of the Cincinnati Convention, calling upon voters, without distinction of party, to unite with them, and says that while the Democrats are ready to co-operate with the reformers, yet it is absurd to think they are to disband their own organization by fusing with elements which might absorb them. It does not advise Democrats to give much favor to the Cincinnati movement, because by so doing the movement might suffer the loss of some of its Republican strength. "While we have said," it says, "to attach much importance to the Cincinnati movement, we will do nothing to embarrass it. The Democratic National Convention will not be held till some time subsequent to the first of May. If the Cincinnati Convention should prove to be an influential body, and the Republican party, uniting, it is quite possible that we may adopt its ticket. But we must also contemplate the possibility of its being a fiasco. The Democratic party resolutely refuses to commit its fortunes and prospects to this doubtful experiment. We shall preserve our organization and maintain our discipline, and if the platform of the Cincinnati candidates we shall do it as a united party, not as a straggling mess of disorganized voters."

Pennsylvania Delegation to the Cincinnati Convention.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 1—It is reported here that the following gentlemen have signified their intention to attend and support the action of the Cincinnati convention: Messrs. A. K. McClure, J. K. Moorhead, Judge Pettis, Darwin Phelps, George H. Irwin, J. M. McClure and Gen. Joseph Cake.

Result of the Election in Utah.

SALT LAKE, March 29.—The total vote of the Mormons of Utah on the ratification of the State Constitution is 25,234, probably one-half women. A memorial protesting against admission is being signed by all Gentiles and occasionally by Mormons. From six to eight thousand signatures are expected within a few days. The papers here are agitating the question of the possibility of civil war in Utah on the result of admission. The Mormons deny and ridicule the idea.

Strike of Coal Miners in the Mahoning Valley.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 31, 1872.

The threatened strike of coal miners in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania for an advance of twenty cents a ton after the first of April, will take place, at least in the Mahoning Valley, as all efforts to compromise with them have so far proved futile.

Justifiable Homicide

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PLYMOUTH, IND., March 30, 1872.

Kern, who shot and killed Laur here a few days ago, was tried to-day and acquitted, the jury returning a verdict of justifiable homicide.

The Earthquake in California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—Advices coming in from the volcanic country north of the Mojave river show that the earthquake on Tuesday was felt with terrific force there. At Lone Pine twenty-three people were killed and thirty wounded. Fifty houses were demolished and the town is in ruins.

South Improvement Company Wiped Out.

TITUSVILLE, March 29.—Dispatches from Harrisburg this evening state that the bill repealing the charter of the South Improvement Company passed both Houses of the State Legislature to-day.

The Evansville *Journal* cannot understand why the Democrats of Indiana should run a candidate for elector at large, when they will not intend to have any candidate for the Presidency. It does seem strange, but probably the passive 'poesumidre know all about it.

ance of official duty. In regard to this letter of Wm. H. Kemble, introducing Mr. Coffey, it was not in reference to State claims, and was dated before my appointment as State agent, or before I had reason to believe I would be appointed. It had reference entirely to a desire on my part to learn the nature of some competent attorney at Washington who might present a claim against the government through the Court of Claims. That letter was never presented, because the claim never came into my hands for collection.

Q.—Is it true that all your papers, vouchers and books are in the possession of Mr. Mackey and Mr. Hartman? A.—No, sir. They are in my possession, and such as remain unsettled are in the hands of the Governor.

Q.—Do you own any real estate in Pennsylvania? A.—No, sir; not in my own name. I have an interest in a small oil property for which you would not probably give $500.

Q.—Do you own a house and lot in Philadelphia? A.—I do not.

Q.—Do you own any real estate in the State of New York? A.—I do not, nor anywhere else. Have no own any government securities or bonds, or any bonds, stocks and securities of any State, or of any railroad corporation, or of any other corporation.

Q.—What has become of the $291,000 you received as commissioner? A.—I have explained that it was expended in extraordinary expenses, in arranging and collecting these claims and in the payment of large sums of indebtedness previously incurred—debts which I considered I was honorably bound to discharge, although perhaps not legally bound to pay.

Q.—Did you give J. Robley Dunglison any money, and, if so, when? A.—Yes, sir. I gave him $2,500 in July, 1867. It was simply as a matter of personal friendship to him, not for any service he had rendered me; not on account of any agreement that had been made. I knew that he was an editor of a newspaper at that time. I knew his family many years, and he was an esteemed friend. No official knew that I paid it to him. It was unexpected and the $1,000,000 allowed to the State? A.—

Yes, sir, there was a great deal of clerical work required in the preparation of papers, rights guaranteed them by the constitution; that federal taxation should be imposed for revenue, and so adjusted as to bear as lightly as den on the industry of the country as light as possible; that a reform in the Civil Service should be made which will relieve political action from the influence of official patronage; that the right of local self-government, the foundation of American freedom, should be reasserted and the encroachments of federal power checked. And we also believe that at this time a special duty rests on the people to do away with corruption in office. The exposures recently made in this city have brought to light evils which are not confined to one party nor to a single locality, and disclose dangers from which no portion of the republic has yet encountered. With the hope that the movement begun in Missouri may spread through all the States, and influence our political policy, we accept the invitation to meet in National Mass Convention at the city of Cincinnati on the 1st day of May next, and we invite all Republicans of New York who agree with us to co-operate in our action.

[Signed.]

HENRY R. SELDEN,
HORACE GREELEY,
FREDERICK A. CONKLING,
WILLIAM DORSHEIMER,
SINGLETON MATHEWS,
SIGISMUND MAUFMAN,
IRA O. MILLER,
EDWARD RICHARDS REYNOLDS,
WILLIAM H. BRIGGS,
CHARLES W. GODARD,
HENRY D. LLOYD,
WILLIAM C. GOODRICH,
WALDO HUTCHINS,
HERAM BARNEY,
W. FREEMAN,
J. FRANCIS,
GEO. P. BRADFORD,
BENJ. A. WILLIS,
HORACE BEMIS,
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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1872.

THE act consolidating the South Side boroughs with Pittsburgh was signed by the Governor Tuesday, and is now a law. The measure is one which cannot fail to inure greatly to the benefit of the people of the eleven municipalities thus made one with us.

A DAY or two ago we mentioned, as a promising indication of better things, that the anti-Chinese rioters of Los Angeles, California, had been convicted of manslaughter. The sentences on them, we now learn, range from two to six years each—light and merciful enough, certainly—yet sufficiently rigorous, it is to be hoped, to teach them and all others interested a wholesome lesson of law-abidingness for all time to come.

COL. THOMAS A. SCOTT achieved a signal victory over President GARRETT, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, in securing a favorable site for a depot at Washington city, for the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. The House decided to give the site asked for, by a vote of 155 to 55. This is a very important matter to the traveling public, and especially to those going to Washington over the Pennsylvania Central, as it will enable them to have their baggage checked through to the Capital.

AS SHOWING the great importance of thorough and systematic committee work in a political canvass, the example of New Hampshire may be cited. A few days before this late election in that State the Republican canvass gave to Governor STRAW 38,141 votes, and to all the other candidates 36,965, making his majority 1,176. The actual vote for Governor STRAW was 38,814; and for his opponents 37,580. The estimate was only 673 under Governor STRAW's vote, and but 594 under that of the opposition. The Republican majority was almost literally given; the actual majority being 1,225, or only forty-nine more than the figures set down in advance. This is a remarkably close estimate. The lesson which it teaches is—teach the people. Let Pennsylvania bear it in mind.

IT is to be hoped Congress will refuse to listen to the request for a further extension of the patent on the WILSON Sewing Machine "feed," now being urged upon it. Two extensions of this patent have already been granted, from which the sewing machine companies interested have reaped enormous profits. The labors of inventors should receive proper recognition and encouragement, but the people of the country are also entitled to some consideration. The four principal sewing machine companies have an agreement by which the advantages of each are shared by all, and it is claimed that the price of machines would be reduced from one-third to one-half if the market were thrown open to competition. It should be done.

SOME twenty-five thousand citizens of San Francisco have forwarded a strong protest to Congress against the proposed cession of Yerba Buena or Goat Island to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, or its conversion into a railroad depot. From a merely local standpoint the people of the Eastern States or their representatives in Congress have little interest in this matter, but from a national point of view they have. The Engineer Corps of the United States Army has, it appears, reported that the military occupation of the island is necessary to the protection of the city. Aside from the question whether the proposed conversion would impair the usefulness of the bay and harbor, this consideration should of itself suffice to induce Congress to refuse to sanction the scheme.

THE Republican County Convention, which assembled Tuesday for the purpose of choosing delegates to the State Convention to nominate candidates for Governor, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Auditor General, embraced representatives from every quarter of the district in the county. While there was some contest as between most of those named for delegates, there was no clashing or friction to engender bitterness, and the result was accepted as entirely satisfactory. Messrs. RUSSELL ERRETT, R. W. MACKEY and P. C. SHANNON were chosen Senatorial Delegates, and Messrs. THOMAS S. BIGELOW, R. W. MORGAN, ARTHUR HOBSON, H. M. LONG, WM. COATES, JOHN PAUL and J. M. SCHAFER Representative Delegates. The convention passed no resolution of instructions, preferring to leave the delegates free to act upon their best judgment.

THE argument which the Postmaster General made in his last annual report in favor of the postal telegraph system has been strongly reinforced by the action of the officers of the Western Union Telegraph Company for increased compensation for reporting the weather signals, which have now become a national necessity. The act of 1869, giving Telegraph Companies the right to construct their lines, conferred upon them certain privileges, in return for which they bound themselves to do the work required by the Government at prices fixed by the Postmaster General, and to sell their lines to the Government at any time within six years, for a price to be determined by referees. Unless the present apparently irreconcilable difficulty between the Government and the Company shall be settled by the latter agreeing to abide by the requirements of the law, it is not improbable that, as a matter of self-protection, the Government will be compelled to own and operate the lines, a result which a good many people would not be sorry to see.

THE reduction of the public debt for March is fifteen millions four hundred and eighty-one thousand dollars. Taking into consideration the fact that about three hundred millions of this debt has been paid off during the present Administration, while at the same time taxes have been reduced to the amount of eighty millions, with fifty more to be cut off before Congress adjourns, a serious question naturally arises whether any other administration would be likely to have done better? When the present administration came into power, gold was at a hundred and thirty-three; it now ranges from a hundred and nine to a hundred and ten, showing a difference of between twenty-two and twenty-three per cent. in favor of our currency, which consequently appreciated to the amount of between a hundred and forty and a hundred and fifty millions of dollars. This is a pretty creditable showing, and while we do not now allude to it in the especial interest of the President, it at least indicates that he is endeavoring to administer public affairs carefully and conscientiously; for these results could not have been obtained had not vigilant honesty and economy in the main been exercised.

WE referred the other day to the outrageous attempt lately made by the Democratic Legislature of Kentucky to nullify the Fifteenth Amendment, by its passage of a law prolonging the official term of the Mayor and Council of Lexington (elected in 1870 for one year only) for four years—just out of regard to the Republican ascendancy which it was feared would ensue from the adoption of the amendment—was in that year arbitrarily extended by the Legislature to three years,) for a further period of four years. The Boston *Advertiser* thinks this iniquitous act ought to be read in Congress as often as any Democrat charges the Republican party with attempting to destroy local Government. This would be a pretty good plan; and it might, perhaps, be made more effective by reference to the defeat of the Civil Rights Bill in the Mississippi Legislature last week, by the concerted absence of a sufficient number of Democratic Senators to leave that body without a quorum. What do those disaffected Republicans who contemplate a coalition with the Democratic party think of these things?

THE bell rings according to its metal. Judging from the illustrations of the past, the "Equal Rights Convention" which is to assemble in New York on the 9th and 10th of May, under the auspices of the National Woman Suffrage Association, for the construction of a platform and the nomination of a Presidential ticket, will amount to very little. One of the four signers of the call, which states that "the Democratic party, false to its name and mission, died in the attempt to sustain slavery, and is buried beyond all hope of resurrection," is Mrs. ISABELLA B. HOOKER, who a couple of weeks ago was, it is said, engaged in delivering speeches in behalf of the Connecticut Democracy. The country does not stand in any present need of additional patents for reform; and the introduction of any new mechanism for that purpose, however well intended may be the aims and purposes of its authors, will not be apt to take with the people. They will select and support such candidates as common sense, honesty and the spirit of freedom shall dictate. And that is enough.

GENERAL LONGSTREET has written a letter giving his views on political affairs and the question of reconstruction in the Southern States. The latter he considers to be the most important national question of the time, and thinks it better to adhere to the present plan than to start off on new theories that might lead us into fresh hazards and confusions. There was a time, he says, when he had serious doubts of the possibility of success; but he now believes that, notwithstanding the responsibility of previous failure was added to the undertaking upon the advent of the present administration, every duty and obligation has been met with a spirit of good faith, and as successfully discharged as could be expected in so limited a time. This result he holds to be due to the firm hand of the present administration, therein agreeing with the views of the Democratic Southern writer in the New Orleans *Picayune*, quoted by us the other day. All things considered, General LONGSTREET believes that the satisfactory and "comfortable" solution of the problem of reconstruction will be best promoted by continuing the present administration in power for another term.

CHURCH AND STATE IN FRANCE.

M. THIERS's declaration given in our issue of yesterday—that "it is the interest of France to keep AMADEUS on the throne of Spain," is chiefly interesting, as it indicates, or may indicate, the gradual development of a policy more friendly to Italy. It has for some time seemed that nothing in the position of the present French Government was more embarrassing than its relations to VICTOR EMANUEL and the Pope, as to please one was certain to displease the other. On the one hand, the Bishops with most earnest Catholics at their backs, urge decided diplomatic, if not military interposition in favor of the restoration of the temporal power as the true and righteous policy for France to pursue in the interest of her own prosperity and aggrandizement. In recommending this course they use an argument more cogent formerly than now, that by espousing and maintaining the cause of the church, the government may with confidence rely upon the blessing and aid of Omnipotence, who "can bring victory to the weak. Though probably not much influenced by any such hope, M. THIERS, retaining his old convictions touching Italian politics, would delight to carry them into effect, if he dared to make the experiment. Not to alienate but to conciliate the affections of the Catholics and to enlist them everywhere in support of his government and of the elevation of France, are objects of first importance in his view, but objects which he finds it difficult to work for without offending the Italians and driving them into the arms of Germany. Then in France there are the powerful anti-Catholic party and the party who, without religious or ecclesiastical motives, believe in a close alliance with Italy as one of the foundations of the future greatness of their country. All these in union with not a few Catholics denounce the wavering and uncertain course of their government towards Italy as founded on vain hopes and as inconsistent with the best French traditions. The hopes are vain, because the ultramontane clergy will never be satisfied with any concessions or services to the Church which it is in the power of the Government to render. What they desire would be a mere theocracy with themselves as administrators, and already ungrateful, they would abandon and revile the Republic the moment it ceased to obey their behests, whatever it might have accomplished in emerging out their ruin. The policy of subserviency to the papacy is also denounced as unhistorical and inconsistent with the past. In illustration it is alleged that even in the ages of faith, France decidedly refused to subordinate her political rights to the schemes and desires of the popes. Saint LOUIS, PHILIPPE the Fair and LOUIS XIV defended French interests against the claims of churchmen and the Holy See, and maintained not a Catholic policy, but a policy truly Gallican as distinguished from such papal subserviency as finds favor with many at the present day.

Though to a certain extent true this claim in favor of the independence of some of the famous Kings of France requires to be so modified as to admit the mischievous influence of ecclesiastical ascendancy as exemplified in their history. Professor VON STEEL, in the lecture to which we referred a few days ago, ascribed the misfortunes of the French partly to their institutions, and partly to "their ideas on the subject of church and State which rested upon the existence of authority with liberty, and cause a perpetual oscillation between arbitrary power and revolution." In fact, these old traditions and the still continuing conflict between the interests of the church and the interests of the State constitute the difficulties with which M. THIERS and his colleagues have now to contend. The State needs and desires obligatory instruction; the church represented by the Bishops defends optional ignorance. The State needs the alliance of Italy; the church desires the restoration of the Kingdom of Italy, in the interest of the Pope's temporal power. It is the ancient struggle, and much of the contempt with which foreigners are wont to contemplate the political helplessness or seeming imbecility of the great French people, would vanish or be changed into compassion, if the peculiar disadvantages with which they have to contend were duly understood and considered.

FERTILIZATION OF THE PLAINS.

Congress was lately asked to make an appropriation of ten thousand dollars to pay for boring an artesian well at Fort Russell, in Wyoming territory. We are not sure whether the petition has yet been acted upon. Water is needed for the accommodation of the Fort, and we believe that this necessity is the sole consideration presented as a reason for making the grant of money asked for. A quite sufficient reason, no doubt, if there should be neither spring nor stream within convenient distance of the place. It is an arid section, a fact which of course accounts for the erection of a fort in a position not already supplied with water, as the puzzling inquiry why rivers so generally flow near large towns long ago received a philosophical answer. At this station from Fort Russell the subject seems mainly interesting as the proposal revives the memory of a theory which was formerly a good deal discussed and which has never been proved to be impracticable. Engineers thoroughly qualified, and not in the least visionary, many years ago expressed the opinion that the whole country could be fertilized if the West might be converted into fruitful fields by means of a system of artesian wells, with the needful arrangements for irrigation. Whoever has lived in certain parts of the East is familiar with the marvelous transformation of ground and scenery that may be worked by opening a well. Land which has been baked by the sun for ages, and looks as incapable as a stone of producing vegetation, in a few months puts out a covering of green under the influence of water. It is also well known that parts of the African sahara, waterless and grassless for centuries, have, within the last forty years, been changed into oases, perfect gardens of fertility, by means of artesian wells made by the French. Some readers will remember that not long ago the British Government resolved to open up a road several hundred miles long through the region known as the *liano estocado*, or staked plain, which was to be supplied with water from artesian wells. Captain POPE, since so well known as General POPE, was appointed superintendent of the enterprise. He bored two wells in the neighborhood of the river Pecos, of which one was 650 feet deep and the other 869 feet deep. The experiment proved that water could thus be obtained in sufficient quantity for the purposes of cultivation, but the money appropriated for the object was exhausted, and before more could be obtained the war broke out, and banished the scheme from the minds of men. But for this interruption, for this time we should know by trial whether those barren lands can be rendered productive in the way proposed. This experiment was made in the southern portion of the American wastes, while Wyoming, where at Fort Russell it is now proposed to bore a well, lies pretty far north. Though much of the territory is mountainous, it has also extensive plains which are quite destitute of water, the only thing needed to make them splendid pasture lands.

This well which it is proposed to bore at Fort Russell for a purely local object, may then be regarded with a certain general interest, as it may yield results important in the development of the barren plains of the West. As suggested by the *Anzeiger des Westen's*, from which we have derived the facts just stated, if the rock should prove easily bored, and the success justify similar labors, private enterprise will not be slow to undertake them. The same authority thinks it to be regretted that the Union Pacific Railroad Company did not at first bore artesian wells at all their stations, not only for the sake of their own immediate concern, but for the promotion of settlements along the line. The Americans, practical as they are, are yet prone, it seems, to overlook nearest needs in the eagerness with which they pursue remote speculations.

SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

From the full details at length received concerning the reception given by the House of Commons to Mr. CHARLES DILKE's proposal of inquiry into the Civil List, it appears that the scene was quite as discreditable as it was represented by the telegraph. The mover of the resolution was allowed to deliver his speech, though he was received at first with a perfect howl from the opposition benches. The manner of Sir CHARLES DILKE was not impressive, his voice being monotonous, and the effect of the speech would probably have been wearisome even upon a sympathetic audience. In Mr. GLADSTONE's reply we have an explanation, though by no means a justification of the turbulent scene which ensued on Mr. HERBERT's attempt to support the first speaker. While admitting that the investigation asked for was legitimate, Mr. GLADSTONE denied the expediency of asking for it at present, especially in view of the avowed republicanism in aid of which information was sought for. He referred to the New Castle speech with its attack upon the Queen as "placing an ill omened association with the mere motion" then before the House. Hence when Mr. HERBERT rose to reply to the Prime Minister and to uphold the motion of Sir CHARLES DILKE, the young gentlemen of the House were prepared to combine their energies and various accomplishments with the single object of putting him down. Groans, hisses, cries of indignation mingled without regard to harmony; one or perhaps two or three began "to crow like chanticleer;" loud "talking voices and the low of herds" arose; "hens were heard to cackle and pigs to squeak," and, indeed, no rural sounds seem to have been wanting to complicate and complete the fine confusion of the occasion. The predominance of country sounds in this legislative charivari is possibly to be referred to the bucolic tastes of so many of the members, or they may have been designed to conjure and lay the demon of republicanism by reminding the country gentlemen of the close relation which exists between monarchy and the agricultural interest. At any rate, the republican aristocrat, Mr. HERBERT, was not allowed to deliver his speech, except in the most fragmentary and unsatisfactory way, and in the hearing of the fewest members sufficient to constitute a House. When the speaker sat down, Mr. MACDONALD, so favorably known on this side of the water, rose and declared that "by its demeanor the House had destroyed its reputation for dignity," a remark which appears quite true. "Such a scene as had taken place that night," he said, "he hoped could only have been witnessed on the other side of the channel;" an allusion against which we humbly protest as wholly uncalled for and unjustifiable. Co-operation is another term for self help.

WHAT an amazing genius for self-contradiction these free traders have. A short time ago, in making some brief reference to the wool question, we cited extracts from two different New York free trade journals in which, after partially denying the statements at the start, one of them attributed the present high prices of wool to a glut in the market produced by the diminished number of sheep, and the other proved to its own satisfaction that the low rates at which that staple had ruled for some years past had been caused by the protective tariff. In the same issue the convincing logic is the assertion of another representative free trade journal, published in the same city, that the repeal of the duties on tea and coffee would not lessen the cost of those articles to the consumer one whit, and that it should therefore be allowed to remain—In blissful unconsciousness of the fact that such a statement totally overthrows all the arguments with which that party have built up, concerning the added cost to the consumer of the products of our own home industry in consequence of a tariff on importations. If the removal of the duty on tea and coffee will not lower their cost to the people, how do these journals make it appear that the abolition of the tariff on iron would lessen the price of that important product to the loss of which competition apply only to articles of home manufacture?

NOTWITHSTANDING the polite and amicable tone of the correspondence between Secretary FISH and Lord GRANVILLE with respect to the "case" of the United States, as prepared for submission to the Geneva tribunal, it is evident that considerable uneasiness still prevails in England concerning the question. It is sincerely to be hoped that Great Britain will act wisely and sensibly, and not withdraw. Certainly she has nothing to fear from going on. But the tone of the British mind seems as much against the constructive claims as ever. Yet even Englishmen ought to be able to understand that the only question worth while to leave the most important portion of the whole business to the hazards of the future. We do not contemplate the possibility of war, but the derangement of values that would result from England's withdrawal would probably of itself cost her far more than the entire amount of our claim, indirect damages and all. As for the course of the American government and people, we have no doubt it will be animated by the same high spirit which moved the nation to enter upon the treaty. This has been called the grandest triumph of civilization which the world had ever witnessed. Shall the saying be truth, or satire?

The Wonder-World.

Geological researches are constantly bringing to light fossil remains of monstrous animals that once roamed over the pleasant places now in the occupancy of civilized man. It is amazing that bones should have resisted physical revolutions that the earth has undergone since they were in existence. Being sealed up beyond the reach of atmospheric influences has saved them. Organic remnants of colossal reptiles are most striking. Next to them the pterodactyl, or flying dragons. Recently in the West the osseous framework of a species of bat has been found, the spread of whose membranous wings was twenty feet—far exceeding those of the condor, the largest bird known to naturalists of this period. Such discoveries testify unmistakably to extraordinary changes of our world since they lived. A whale's skeleton in the rocks on the Green Mountains of Vermont—an elephant's bones also, and a tusk excavated in the Sierra Nevada peak, by the side of which a common elephant tooth is a mere needle, speak in inefiable language of the habitable antiquity of this globe. Living trees in California declare by concentric circles that the world has been quiescent since they sprang from a seed about four thousand years ago. Yet it is scientifically demonstrable that fossil giants whose bones are the marvels of the age, were imprisoned cycles upon cycles before the Maraposa trees which produced cones from which present groves sprang, had begun to grow.

A man who had been alarmed by his physician's technical diagnosis of what he himself believed to be a simple cold in the head, happened to turn over the leaves of an early edition of Webster, when his eye lighted on the great lexicographer's masterly definition ot the word "boil," which was this: "a circumscribed subcutaneous inflammation, characterized by a pointed pustular tumor, and suppurating with a central core—a pernuncius." That man has since dispensed with doctors, and says Webster was a —— well, it wouldn't perhaps be the correct thing to repeat what he said Webster was.

AFTER many years of experiment, interested parties think they have found a means of applying steam as a motive power upon canals. It is after a Belgian patent, and entirely different from any mode ever attempted in this country. If it proves successful it will be worth many millions annually to the New York State canals.

mechanic, clerk and laboring man will be benfitted, the people relieved from an odious and oppressive tax, and the best interests of the country every way promoted. All this, and more, can be done in time for Congress to adjourn before the assembling of the Philadelphia Convention, if that body will settle down industriously to work.

WE can understand the sensitiveness of the House concerning the infringement of the Senate on its constitutional prerogative to originate bills of revenue, but it is earnestly to be hoped that the resentment may not be carried so far as in turn to give the Senate occasion for taking umbrage. The necessity of immediate action on the tariff is of the most urgent character. The commercial interests of the whole country are suffering injury from the uncertainty that prevails concerning the ultimate decision which Congress will make. The trade in tea and coffee is every day becoming more and more seriously embarrassed. A prominent New York journal says the consumption of tea since the 1st of January is 7,000,000 pounds less than for the corresponding period of last year, and that the demand for coffee has fallen off 28,000,000 pounds. Including the stock often in bond and the amount to arrive before July 1, no less than 40,000,000 pounds of that article will be affected by the proposed repeal of the duty. The stock of coffee on hand is 62,000,000 pounds, and the amount to arrive before July is 60,000,000 pounds—a total of 122,000,000 pounds to be affected in a similar manner by the final action of Congress. It can be seen at a glance how this unsettling of values caused by the delay of Congress to take action in the matter affects merchants and consumers. A final decision for or against the repeal of the duties should be had at once. After these important tariff matters have been settled it will be time enough for the two Houses to stand on their dignity with respect to each other.

DR. KRACKOWIZER, one of the signers of the letter of the New York Liberal Republicans, complains of having been practiced upon in the matter. He says that in the copy signed by him, the passage which in the published letter reads: "Federal taxation should be limited to revenue," like a letter "for revenue" were omitted, the sentence reading: "Federal taxation should be so adjusted as to make the burdens as light as possible upon the industry of the country." "In short," says the *Tribune*, referring to the matter, "DR. KRACKOWIZER stands for protection, as we do, but asks that the Cincinnati Convention shall simply leave the people free to decide for protection or free trade, as they shall severally prefer, in the choice of members of Congress," which the *Tribune* hopes the Convention will have the good sense to do. That journal further says it sees "nothing inconsistent with this in the letter to Col. GROSVENOR," which may be true enough; but the people of the country, to whom the communication makes appeal, will be apt to see something worse than inconsistency, and to demand how it came about that the free trade element, of the letter was eliminated from the copy presented to a protectionist for his signature? It could hardly have been an inadvertence—what it was, the free trade portion of the signatories can probably best tell. And now the question arises as to how much importance should be attached to a movement the leaders of which are compelled to play a hide and seek game with each other at the very outset? Is this the new party which is to reform and purify the nation?

A BILL has been introduced into Congress providing a charter for a co-operative bank for the District of Columbia, the capital stock ten millions of dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars payable in monthly installments of five dollars each. The bill provides that the funds of the institution shall be entirely invested in United States bonds and securities, and remain in the treasury as collateral security for the redemption of the circulating medium which shall be issued by the government for the bank, on the same footing as national banks. Operations are to be confined exclusively to the purchase and improvement of real estate, to be disposed of or loaned by open credit to co-operative associations of labor only. No person other than an actual manual labor worker can become an officer or director of the institution. Ten per cent of the dividend is to be set apart for the scientific and art education of such members of co-operative labor associations as may be agreed upon. There are perhaps some features in the bill not wholly practicable, but its principles are in the main sensible and sound. The great difficulty which labor has heretofore had to encounter has been its lack of credit, and the crowning effort of co-operation is the co-operative bank, which gives credit to those who without it would have none. Communism would rob the rich to supply the wants. Co-operation is another term for self help.

The Wonder-Working.

Every lady with any pretensions to fashion has now one or more embroidered costumes in her wardrobe. These costumes sometimes consist of a jacket, or basque, and overskirt, sometimes of a polonaise, which forms a jacket, and possibly a vest, simulated by trimming or embroidery, and overskirt. The black cashmere, flannel or alpaca polonaise and overskirt with black guipure lace, has been the desideratum the past two years, and are as elegant and desirable as ever. But the latest material for costumes is camel's hair cloth, in the light snuff brown, wood, dust and cameo tints, embroidered with the lightest to the darkest shades of the color, and bordered with a rich, wide guipure lace, matching the material. The fabric is very soft, all wool and drapes easily; it has a somewhat rough, twilled surface, and would only be recognized as distinguished by the initiated. It is expensive, the embroidered material with lace to match, sufficient to trim, costing from seventy-five to one-hundred dollars the set. The lowest price for the cloth unembroidered is two dollars per yard.

Armure foulards are very much used for dressy overskirts, but have not taken the place of China *crepe*, which is, however, more employed upon imported toilettes than those of home manufacture. Fringe and lace are the trimmings used, narrow guipure, or point lace, being often used as a heading to rich fringe. Later in the season will be seen striped or gandy and black satin striped grenadine will be used for handsome overskirts and overdresses, with skirts of light tinted silks, or grenadine in a plain black color.

"Satin" striped organdy is a novelty in white muslin; the stripes are an inch broad and have a satin finished surface. It "does up" nicely and will make pretty summer suits or house dresses, as it will need but little trimming. Black satin striped grenadine is used this season instead of the black, with a white stripe which was so much in vogue last year. Of course both will be worn, but the all black is later, and considered more ladylike, which it certainly is, particularly for the married dames who principally adopt these high overdresses for half ceremonious toilettes.

On black satin striped grenadine bias ruffles may be used as trimming; on striped organdy, bias ruffles, or bias bands edged with lace. All the new overskirts are made long very long at the back, but draped high at the sides with the apron front.

SPRING AND SUMMER BONNETS.

There is not much to add to what has been said in reference to the new styles in spring and summer bonnets. The new material is principally straw, and there is nothing new or distinctive in the shape of the bonnet itself. Whatever is accomplished for it in that line must be done by the milliner.

The principal effort seems to be expended in imparting to the plain straw crown the high full appearance of the soft, high crown, which became so great a favorite in velvet during the past winter.

To effect this, standing loops of ribbon in two colors or two shades of one color, are employed, or a puffing of soft, rich silk, lace or crape, surrounded by folds of silk, ribbon, or velvet or silk and velvet alternating. Thick *gros grain* or faille silk are used for pipings, or narrow folds for both the inside and outside edges of fine English straw bonnets edged with narrow lace. Black lace is much used in combination with straw trimming, velvet with poppies and mixed field flowers. Upon black lace branches of Acacia are arranged to droop at the back, the front being filled with a large "Absatian" bow of black lace, with broad barb ends, turned back, and an ornament composed of flies with light transparent wings in the centre.

This "Absatian" bow is a novelty, and forms an elaborate headdress, or an entire trimming for a bonnet, of itself. It is usually composed of black lace, silk or velvet, lined and piped with a contrasting color, bluff, French grey, very light green, pink or blue. The bow is square, the ends and the bow on the cross, and when the whole is properly made and arranged, it gives n new and picturesque appearance to a plain bonnet of fine English or Italian straw. The Absatian bonnet was the latest and most stylish novelty of last season, and the Absatian bow gives very much the same effect. Another novelty is the "long" English crape, that is crape with a long crinkle, heretofore only seen in black, is now made in all the new tints and edged with and used to combine with silk, for "costume" bonnets. Branches of the Vegonia, or round leaf geranium are employed for trimmings in preference to flowers. When the color is French grey, however, "Paris in ashes" roses (grey crushed roses, with vivid red edges), are the most suitable ornament with wide bows of French grey *faille* ribbon and fringed edges.

BRIDE'S PARTIES.

A species of afternoon party is becoming quite the vogue among the ultra fashionables of new York society, which is so characteristic of the general love of notoriety and display that it is worth recording. These are what is called "brides' parties," as they are exclusively composed of ladies, and consist of the bride's most intimate friends. Full dress is not required on these occasions, a handsome visiting costume is sufficient, as the ladies do not always even remove their bonnets. They gather in groups, however in the drawing-room, admire the pictures and flowers and the ferneries with which it is decorated, chat about the interesting coming events, sip tea from transparent china cups, nibble at "lady-fingers," and, finally, are taken to the ladies' sitting-room, or her mamma's boudoir, to inspect the trousseau, which is arranged for their approval and admiration.

"Lovely," "exquisite," "charming," are chorussed from half a hundred lips, and "don't we wish we was I that we could get married," declares one of the youngest and most beautiful of the crowd, who really does not wish it half so much as the forty-nine others, who begin to see, with distraction, the evidence of time on brow and cheek and hair, and no prospect of any necessity for a *trousseau* of their own.

Fine embroidery wrought upon the linen, is now the fashionable method of ornamenting underclothing, and is much more suitable, as well as more durable, than lace, or ruffling.

CANDY PARTIES.

Quite in contrast to the "brides" parties are the "candy parties," and have become a species of top-year festivities, and take place in the month of Lent. Young ladies invite gentlemen to these parties which have somewhat-the character of a "surprise." The young gentlemen get themselves up in kids, embroidered shirt bosoms and pomatum, as usual, and are taken to a nice home. Here they are all huddled into a swept and garnished kitchen, which the cook, for the time being, has been induced to vacate. A porcelain kettle is sputtering molasses on the polished range, and a savory party has gathered about a bushel basket of peanuts, which they are popularly supposed to be shelling for the candy.

The girls have the best of the frolic, for they are in plain, high dresses, woolen or print, and fanciful bib aprons; the young men look prayerfully at their new kid gloves, and finally "pitch in," get daubed with molasses, "pull" the candy and make themselves agreeable generally.

The candy parties have been voted a "success."

LINEN SUITS

Are principally cut with a skirt and polonaise, the latter generally the marqueritte shape. As the weather advances more different styles will be introduced, but the skirt and polonaise will be mainly adhered to, and the simpler the design for washing materials, the better it looks and the longer it retains it fresh appearance.

NECK-TIES

and ornaments for the throat have become quite an expensive item. They are of pale blue silk, with or without fringed ends, the fringe forming a knotted one. Others are of twilled silk, edged with Valenciennes, the ends forming a cascade, composed of alternate shells of silk and lace.

New tinted scarfs for street wear are composed of soft twilled silk, with neat diagonal stripes, shaded from dark to light in the same color. Broad scarfs of black lace are also fashionable, loosely rolled around the neck, and ballfalling at the back, the body part laying in broad folds upon the breast. This style is very picturesque for housewear over a dress of gray silk or fine cashmere. JENNIE JUNE.

IRON AND STEEL.

Production in the United States in 1871—An Interesting Report.

Mr. Henry McAllister, Jr., Secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association, completed a report on Thursday, an abstract of which is as follows:

"From these tables, it appears that the production of anthracite pig iron, in 1871, in the high region, was 1,400,000 tons, the product of forty-three furnaces, many of which were out of blast during a considerable part of the year. The production in the Lehigh and the Schuylkill region, during the same time, was 157,305 tons. The furnaces from Harrisburg down along the Susquehanna made, in 1871, 115,177 tons, and the furnaces in the Juniata 7,000. The production of anthracite pig iron in the United States, in 1871, was 350,008, of which Pennsylvania made 349,482. The production of raw bituminous coal and coke pig iron was 570,000 tons, and of charcoal 385,000 tons, making the total production of pig iron in the United States 1,912,008 tons. The utmost present annual capacity of the blast furnaces of the United States is estimated at about 2,500,000 tons.

The total production of rails in the country in 1871 amounted to 775,733. Of this amount, 715,693 tons were iron and 60,042 tons steel and steel headed. The following statement shows the localities in which these rails were manufactured:

	Tons.	State.	Tons.
Pennsylvania	355,604	Maine	13,283
Illinois	91,178	Indiana	12,778
New York	87,027	Tennessee	9,667
Ohio	75,789	Missouri	8,203
Maryland	44,941	New Jersey	6,500
Wisconsin	28,774	Georgia	7,849
Massachusetts	28,500	Virginia	6,000
Michigan	14,000	Kentucky	6,000

The reports received from the rail mills indicate that a large number were in operation during a part of last year only. There are forty-eight rail mills in the country, and their utmost annual capacity is placed at about 1,000,000 tons.

During 1871 the rails imported amounted to 572,387 tons, making the total consumption in the United States 1,348,119 tons. The product of the forges and rolling mills of the country amounted to 65,000 tons in 1871—about 10,000 tons below the average of the last ten years.

The production of rails from imported iron other than rails in 1871 is estimated as follows: Merchant bar and rod, 330,000 tons; sheet and plate, 118,000 tons; hoop, 22,000 tons; railroad spikes, 15,000 tons, and all others, 80,000 tons—making a total of 700,000 tons. The product of steel is estimated at 92,000 tons, of which 45,000 tons were made by the Bessemer process.

Philadelphia Exports for March.

The business of Philadelphia in commodities, the growth, produce, and manufactures of the United States exported to foreign countries in American and foreign vessels during the month of March, 1872, was of the value of $921,314. Of this amount $223,504 were for bread and breadstuffs, $31,766 were for provisions, $558,333 were for crude and refined petroleum, $122,720 were for cooperage, $56,641 were for iron manufactures, and $24,963 were for oil cake.

Birds in their little nests agree; but the happy family, which is snapping and snarling at President Grant all the while, can't be of one mind to save their political lives. This is the way, for instance, the Chicago *Times* (rough and ready Dem.) talks to the New York *World* (kid gloved and financial Dem.) It says: "The course of the New York *World* with respect to the current campaign has been uniformly impracticable and mischievous," and goes on to bewail the fact and its consequences in a bitter yet doleful lamentation of a column.

AN important decision was made the day rendered by the Supreme Court of Mississippi, that confederate and cotton money paid into the State Treasury during the war, on account of the indebtedness of the various railroads in the State, was no payment, and all such expressed payments must now be made in current funds. The court also decided that citizens burning cotton by order of the military authorities during the war, cannot be held for damages by the owner of cotton.

An irrepressible Indianapolis critic, who has been listening to Anna Dickinson, says she is rapidly developing masculine ways, which, unfortunately, are not manly, but only man-ish. He says "The very lines of her face were inflexible and cold. One could not recognize in the hard jaw, restless eye, and pallid face, the attractive little girl that took the world by storm a few short years ago. She spoke of men growing old at 50, yet under 30 years of age she looks 45, and is as settled in her form, manners, and opinions as if she were as old as Sarah, the wife of Abraham."

HARRISBURG.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 2, 1872.

SENATE.

The Constitutional Convention Bill.

The Senate held till after twelve o'clock last night, McClure making a lengthy speech on the Constitutional Convention bill reported by the Conference Committee, with Mr. White's proposition that three delegates should be elected for each Senator, on the cumulative system. Mr. McClure had the bill recommitted, upon the ground that this would make the Convention partisan.

Bills Passed.

The bill selling agricultural land scrip and authorizing a new issue of bonds was passed. Following House bills passed: Amending the health laws of Pittsburgh; vacating part of Highland avenue; vacating part of Locust street; regulating party walls in Pittsburgh; authorizing Councils to set aside proceedings for the opening of Water street; authorizing Pittsburgh city to guarantee the payment of taxes upon certain bonds; authorizing the erection of a bridge over the Youghiogheny at McKeesport.

The Appropriation Bill.

Mr. Graham, from the Conference Committee on the Appropriation bill, reported, retaining $250,000 for legislative expenses, $10,000 for the Philadelphia University Hospital. Nearly all the local charities were struck out. Each member of the Evans Committee is allowed $600 expenses.

Mr. Billingfelt earnestly opposed the introduction of a new subject into the appropriation bill not considered in either house, including $800 extra to each member of the Evans Committee. The report was adopted.

YEAS—Anderson, Brooke, Buckalew, Crawford, Davis, Berks, Dechert, Delamater, Dill, Findlay, Graham, Humphreys, Mumma, Nagle, Purman, Randall, Strong, Rutan—18.

NAYS—Allen, Billingfelt, Broadhead, Davis, Fullerton, Gilbert, Knight, McSherry, Petriken, Waddell, Warfel, Weakley, White—11.

Mr. Graham objected off the House bill for the more effective gas lighting of towns and boroughs in Allegheny county.

Mr. Humphreys defeated the bill incorporating the Union Passenger Railway Company of Allegheny county.

Mr. Graham desires that he should be represented as in favor of the bill extending the free pipe bill to Allegheny county last night, and this evening the bill for the Smith's Ferry Oil Transportation Company, of Beaver County, passed finally, as it came from the House.

The bill allowing defendants in case of misdemeanor to testify, except in cases of perjury and forgery, passed finally.

A resolution was passed adding Speakers Rutan and Elliott to the Centennial Celebration committee, and authorizing each House to appoint three more. Mr. Rutan appointed Messrs. Mumma, McClure and Randall.

The bill incorporating the Union Passenger Railway Company, was passed, and then reconsidered by Mr. Humphreys and killed.

Mr. Humphreys called up the House bill for a State Bureau of Labor Statistics, supporting it in an eloquent speech. Passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On the Constitutional Convention bill being recommitted, the Republicans voted in favor of recommittal, except White and Cooper.

Bills Passed.

The following Senate bills were passed: Incorporating the Little Beaver Valley Railroad Company; incorporating the Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Tenperanceville Passenger Railway Company; relating to filing municipal liens in Allegheny city; relating to sewers in Allegheny city; authorizing the extension and improvement of Federal street.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 2, 1872.

The bill annexing the South Side boroughs to Pittsburgh was signed by the Governor about four o'clock this afternoon. J. B.

A Card from Hon. James L. Graham.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 2, 1872.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In your issue of this morning I am represented as having voted against the free pipe bill. The reverse is true. I advocated and voted for it. JAMES L. GRAHAM.

[The report was given precisely as telegraphed from Harrisburg.—ED. COM.]

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 3, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. Graham presented a large petition from coopers of Western Pennsylvania, and in obedience thereto introduced a bill against the manufacture or sale of oil barrels by pauper labor. Ruled out.

The candy parties have been voted a "success."

Report of the Sinking Fund Commissioners.

A communication was received from the Sinking Fund Commissioners, representing the amounts of loans redeemed since May 1st, 1871, at $987,822; amount of overdue loans, on which interest has been stopped, $622,738; five per cent. loan of June 11, 1840, overdue and paid since, $335,533; interest on the 6 per cent. loan of May, 1861, overdue and payable on demand, $1,310,650; total, $2,277,022 52; balance in treasury March 31, 1872, $1,865,794 93; balance March 31, 1871, $2,083,212 64.

Divorce.

Mr. Humphreys called up the House bill divorcing Robert and Julia P. Morrow, of Allegheny county. It was opposed by Mr. Graham. Passed.

$5,000 for McClure and Gray.

The joint resolution allowing the contestant and respondent in the McClure-Gray contest each $2,500 for extraordinary expenses was passed.

Constitutional Convention Bill Passed.

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, April 6, 1872.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Delegates to the State Convention.

Hon. Russell Errett, Hon. R. W. Mackey and Hon. P. C. Shannon Chosen as Senatorial, and Messrs. Thomas S. Bigelow, B. W. Morgan, H. M. Long, Arthur Hobson, William Coates, John Paul and J. Martin Schafer as Representative Delegates.

The Republican County Convention to choose delegates to the State Convention to be held at Harrisburg, April 10th, to nominate a State ticket, met in the District Court room, Tuesday forenoon, and was called to order at eleven o'clock, by Major Errett. H. W. Oliver, Jr., Chairman of the County Committee, who was absent at Harrisburg, having requested Mr. Errett to open the Convention.

After the reading of the call, the following named gentlemen were chosen as temporary Secretaries: A. L. Pearson, T. M. Gillespie, W. J. Diehl, C. A. Kehew, George McMullen, C. L. Magee, W. J. Gilmore, T. H. Hunter, Wm. McCandless and B. F. Kennedy.

THE CREDENTIALS OF CANDIDATES.

The Secretaries then proceeded to call the list of Districts and the delegates handed in their credentials. Bacon following having been admitted to seats:

PITTSBURGH.

First—W. J. Diehl.	Sixteenth—1st, John McCandless.
Second—T. H. Phelps.	Seventeenth—2d, S. B. McElroy.
Third—R. W. Mackey.	Seventeenth—Wm. Wallace.
Fourth—W. A. Herron.	Eighteenth—G. W. Lewis.
Fifth—Wm. Montooth.	Nineteenth—Thos. Mackey.
Sixth—John Wingert.	Twenty-first—1st, C. Kehew.
Seventh—G. Patterson.	Twenty-first—2d, B. W. Morgan.
Eighth—J. F. Meehan.	Twenty-second—J. A. Gray.
Ninth—J. H. McIlvoy.	Twenty-third—G. T. Oliver.
Tenth—D. McCord.	
Eleventh—W. C. McCardle.	
Twelfth—1st, J. H. Nobles.	
Twelfth—2d, J. R. Hazlett.	
Thirteenth—1st, T. Gray.	
Thirteenth—2d, Robert Ray.	
Fourteenth—C. L. Magee.	
Fifteenth—A. L. Pearson.	

Contested by Thomas P. Houston.

ALLEGHANY.

First—H. N. Long.	Fourteenth—2d, C. Blair.
Second—Thos Ward.	Fifth—Jos. Walton.
Third—1st, A. Robson.	Sixth—Hugh Ward.
" 2d, Aid. Eastwood.	Seventh—Jos. Huston.
Fourth—1st, D. E. Lewis.	Ninth—G. C. McMullen.

BOROUGHS.

McKeesport—D. Wilson.	Wilkinsburgh—W. A. Lewis.
W. Pittsburgh—I. Ammon.	S. Pittsburgh—W. Shearer.
Monongahela—N. Brokaw.	Jr.
Braddock—E. J. Allen.	Elizabeth—J. Walker,
Lawrenceville—R. G. Stoney.	Jr.
Birmingham—1st, P. Schafer.	Oakmont—R. Dalzell.
" 2d, Jas. Hamilton.	Sewickley—Wm. Coates.
Mt. Washington—S. S. Boggs.	Dempsville—W. C. Taylor.
	Manchester—Robert Abbott.
	Union—R. S. Smith.
	Sharpsburg—J. A. McCandless.
	Verona—R. F. Weddell.
	Millvale—Wm. Coates.
	Scott—2d, J. H. Robb.
	Carnegie—W. A. Hall.
	Harrison—F. Vance.
	Leet—Wm. Noderer.
	Forward—Shroeder.
	Stowe—Jos. Brewster.
	North End—D. D. Welty.

THE CONTESTED SEAT.

Capt. B. W. Morgan moved that a committee of three be appointed on contested seats selected, and that the Chair appoint Messrs. B. W. Morgan, John Paul and D. B. Lewis.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

The Chairman announced that the next business in order was the election of a permanent President. Col. E. Jay Allen, of Braddocks, was nominated and elected by acclamation. He stated that he would not consume the time of the Convention by any remarks further than to thank them for their partiality, and to promise them to discharge the duties to the best of his ability.

The temporary secretaries were elected as permanent secretaries, and the organization was thus completed, Major Murphy having been added to the list.

NAMING THE DELEGATES.

F. C. Negley moved that the Convention now proceed to make nominations for delegates to the State Convention. Adopted.

Dr. Gilmore moved that the nominations be made by districts as recommended by the Executive Committee.

After the nominations had been in progress, A. M. Watson said it appeared that the district between the rivers was not allowed a representative. He moved to reconsider the vote adopting the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The motion was negatived. The nominations were then proceeded with and the following were named:

SENATORIAL DELEGATES.

South Side District—Russel Errett, C. S. Fetterman.

North District—Hon. P. C. Shannon.

REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES.

South Side District—J. Martin Schafer, W. H. Berker, T. J. Bigham, W. J. Gilmore, John Paul.

Middle District—T. S. Bigelow, John S. Lanable, Benj. W. Morgan, A. M. Barr, W. H. Denniston.

North District—Arthur Hobson, H. M. Long, Wm. Coates.

The chairman announced that three Senatorial and seven representative delegates were to be elected.

CHOSEN BY ACCLAMATION.

As Hon. P. C. Shannon, nominated as Senatorial delegate from the North District, and Messrs. Arthur Hobson, H. M. Long, and Wm. Coates, Representative delegates from the same District had no opposition, those gentlemen were elected by acclamation.

The Convention then took a recess until one o'clock, for the purpose of enabling the Secretaries to prepare for a ballot.

Afternoon Session.

The Convention reassembled at the hour of one, and tickets were distributed containing the names of the candidates to be balloted for.

A. M. Watson, Esq., moved that the voting be by districts.

F. M. Magee, Esq., moved to amend, that the voting be by marking.

Mr. Watson said he wanted an honest vote. He was not afraid to open his mouth and name the parties he wished to support. No man should desire to cast his vote in a sneaking manner.

Capt Errett remarked that the voting could be done just as honestly with the pencil as with the tongue. It did not matter how the vote was cast, but he favored the amendment to were time.

Mr. F. C. Negley was in favor of the original motion for the same reason.

The question having been taken the amendment was adopted by a decided majority.

THE VOTING.

The delegates then commenced to vote by marking.

The name of S. Schoyer, Jr., Senatorial nominee from the middle district, was withdrawn, and on motion R. W. Mackey was elected by acclamation.

The names of H. Denniston and A. M. Barr, nominated as Representative Delegates from the Second City District, were withdrawn. B. W. Morgan being the only remaining nominee from that district was elected by acclamation.

A delegate announced that he had been instructed to withdraw the name of C. S. Fetterman, as candidate for Senatorial delegate from the South Side.

Mr. Negley, who had nominated Mr. Fetterman, objected to withdrawing the name of the gentleman unless he made the request personally.

Mr. Fetterman subsequently appeared and withdrew his name, whereupon Major Errett was nominated by acclamation.

The name of John S. Lanahie was withdrawn and Thomas S. Bigelow declared elected.

The names of Messrs. Gilmore, Bigham and Barker were also withdrawn, and Messrs. John Paul and J. Martin Schafer were declared chosen from the South Side.

These withdrawals all took place while the ballot was in progress.

NO REPORT.

Mr. Morgan, from the Committee on Contested Seats, appeared in the room and commenced, and stated that he was ready to report.

A delegate suggested that Mr. Pheips had already voted, and that the report came rather late to do the contestant much good! This created a good deal of merriment, and Mr. Morgan did not read his report at all.

No resolutions were offered, and the Convention having finished its business adjourned.

A Child Smothered to Death.

Thursday the Coroner held two inquests. The first was on the body of an infant child, found dead in bed at the residence of its parents, in the rear of the Relief Engine House. The evidence showed that the father of deceased, Robert McCreery, had gone to his work in a glass house at midnight. The mother then retired to bed with the child. When Mr. McCreery came home in the morning at seven o'clock, he picked the child up from the bed and found it to be dead. Mrs. McCreery was asleep at the time. The jury found that the deceased had been accidentally smothered to death by its mother lying upon it.

The second inquest was upon the remains of an aged lady, Mrs. Netzar, who died suddenly in Allegheny. A verdict of death from natural causes was rendered.

Child Bitten by a Rat.

Thursday Dr. Venn was called upon to attend a rather odd case at the house No. 339 Liberty street. A baby had fallen out of bed where it had been sleeping with its mother. The latter was apprised of the fact by the screaming of the child. On awaking she found it near the bedside, where it had fallen. A rat had eaten the flesh off one of the babes fingers, and severed one of the large veins of the hand, and had bitten the child's face in several places.

THE UMBRELLA MURDER.

Testimony Before the Coroner's Jury—The Verdict.

Wednesday afternoon the Coroner held an adjourned inquest at the Mayor's office over the the remains of Meinhart Kimpf, who died on Tuesday morning, from injuries received at the hands of John Nicolaus. The following testimony was elicited:

Nicholas Pall, sworn—Am a member of the Fire Department; was standing in front of the Grant Engine House when the prisoner and the deceased run out of a tobacco shop; the prisoner struck the deceased in the breast and he staggered into the gutter; the deceased made no attempt to strike back; Kimpf came up on the pavement, when the prisoner felt in all his pockets as if he was looking for something; he then struck at him again and started to run to an alley; what happened then I cannot say; am not acquainted with the defendant, but was acquainted with the deceased twelve or fifteen years; heard them quarreling, but did not understand what they said; assisted to take the deceased after he was wounded to the office of Dr. Weinman; was present when the physician took out the point of the umbrella; I left the deceased at Dr. Weinman's and returned to the engine house; did not see the deceased since; could not tell what they were under the influence of liquor; the witness then pointed out the prisoner.

Catharine Speckner, sworn—Reside at No. 143 Madison avenue; keep a cigar and variety store; the prisoner and the deceased came into my store about half-past four o'clock, when the deceased said "here are so ne cigars;" the prisoner took two cigars and the deceased one after the defendant took two cigars he said to the deceased, "you pay for them," when he said, "I have no money;" the prisoner said, "you asked me to take some cigars;" the deceased said, "I paid the beer," the prisoner then said "I paid the beer, too;" the prisoner then struck 25 cents for his own cigars; the deceased said his cigars were three cents; commenced quarreling, and I told them not to raise any disturbance; they then left the store; the prisoner went out first; what took place outside I don't know; they were in the house about five minutes.

Brigitta Weishaen, sworn—Reside in No. 12 Ferry street; was standing in front of my house about five o'clock Sunday evening and saw two men running on the opposite side of the street; they ran into Spring alley; they were talking loud, but I could not understand what they said; the prisoner took hold of his umbrella with two hands and ran it into the deceased, when he fell; told my husband who was in the house, what had occurred; did not see the deceased throw up his arm to ward off the umbrella; he hadn't an opportunity, as he was struck so quick; it was quite positive that the deceased did not fall toward the umbrella; think from his appearance (the prisoner) and the fact that he ran off as fast as possible, that he believed he had injured the deceas d severely.

George Treser, sworn—Reside at No. 147 East street; while standing in front of my store saw the two men coming out of Nicolaus' store, and when they reached the pavement, the prisoner gave the deceased a push, and struck him a blow in the face; the prisoner then ran into the alley; did not see anything that occurred in the alley.

Dr. John Kirker, sworn—Made a *post mortem* examination on the deceased yesterday afternoon; found the right lung lacerated; the opening in the skull extended from the orbit of the left eye, running across transversely the outside of the cavity of the right skull, and the right side of the brain; there was considerable hemorrhage on the right lobe of the brain; the nature of the injury to the brain would necessarily prove fatal; the physician had been handed the point of the handle of the umbrella which had been extracted; the wound in the brain was about half or three-quarters of an inch in length; had not had an *ante-mortem* examination, do not know whether the wound was probed.

Dr. August Weinman, sworn—Have been a practicing physician for seven years; was called five o'clock two men belonging to the fire department brought the deceased to my office; did not know what injury the party had sustained, as he had both hands to his head; he placed him on a chair, examined his eye and saw that it was swollen, but did not know that there was anything to it; the blood had covered the piece; when I examined the wound with my finger, I found that something was in it; I then tried to pull it out with my hand but failed; then took pair of pincers and turned the piece round and round, after which I was able to pull it out; the point of the umbrella was then shown the witness, being the identical piece that I had extracted; after the piece was extracted a stream of blood flowed out of his eye; attended the deceased regularly after; he died about 10 o'clock Tuesday morning; was present with Dr. Kirker when he made the *post mortem* examination; never probed the wound further than to see if

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1872.

TERMS.

One copy, per year $2 00
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Wanted.

Copies of the following dates of the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL, to complete our file:

Two copies September 30, 1871.
Two copies October 1, 1871.

THE New York *World* of Friday says of the Cincinnati Conference that "the movement was born of despair of defeating GRANT in the regular party Convention," and further that "its promoters virtually confess they are a hopeless minority inside the regular Republican organization, and that they are too powerless to make even a respectable bolt at Philadelphia." Gentle reminders like these will help wonderfully to bring the Democratic and sorehead wirepullers into a cordial community of feeling and action.

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is nearly all the countries of Europe, the primary education of the people is being made compulsory, and passing more and more under the direct control of the State. The Swiss Council of State, a week or two ago, passed a resolution by which the schools of that republic are to be in future brought under the supervision of the confederation, instead of being, as heretofore, left to the care of the respective cantons. The compulsory system, it is understood, will be rigidly enforced. What about our own six millions of illiterates, Messieurs Legislators?

EX-GOVERNOR E. D. MORGAN of New York made himself responsible for the $13,700 required to pay for one of the bronze groups on the monument over ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S grave at Springfield, he having first obtained the signatures of one hundred and thirty-seven of his acquaintances to a subscription paper in which each was pledged for $100. The order for the group, with full instructions, is now on its way to Mr. MEAD, the sculptor, who lives in Florence. By means of this prompt and practical action on Governor MORGAN'S part, the memorial to our martyred President will be saved from the lingering fate that usually befals national endeavors to insure posthumous honor to our greatest men.

A MOVEMENT is understood to be on foot in Philadelphia to test the question whether the adjournment of the State Legislature last winter from Friday of one week until Wednesday of the next did not adjourn it out of existence. The friends of the Market Street Railroad in that city have raised the issue that the bill which was lately passed, permitting the Union Line to construct an additional track on Market street, is unconstitutional, on the grounds that the Legislature had previously adjourned for a longer period than that allowed by the constitution, and had, therefore, no constitutional existence at the time of the passage of the measure. The matter is to be tested in the Supreme Court; and, although there is little doubt how it will eventuate, still it is well to have the question once for all decided.

THE quest on of shipments of corn and grain in bulk from the West to Europe by way of the Mississipi river, may now be considered as satisfactorily solved. It has been pretty fairly demonstrated that grain can in this manner can be carried cheaper and quicker than from New York, counting the time and cost of shipment from the interior. The traffic is apparently destined to attain large dimensions. Twelve iron vessels, constructed for the specific purpose of carrying grain are, it is understood, to be placed at an early date on the line between New Orleans and Liverpool. It seems not unlikely that the southern port of New Orleans may become the principal port in the United States for the exportation of grain and corn to Europe. The benefits which the South will derive from this growing trade are many and obvious.

ON the 28th of February last there went into operation the act of Congress regulating steamboat traffic, whereby captains and owners were made liable for damages to passengers and their baggage in case of disaster caused by neglect or failure to comply with the provisions of the law. An effort is now to be made to supersede or amend the most important section of the act, so as to limit the liability of captains and owners. Under the law as it now exists, the only limit to the liability of those concerned to pay. Under the proposed amendment, liability is not to exceed the value of the vessel. This would appear very much like offering a premium for the continued use of all the flimsy, rotten tubs and cheap machinery that can be kept afloat and in the semblance of working order. It is to be hoped that Congress will not pass upon this matter in a hurry.

THERE seems to be no doubt that the Black Hills gold excitement, of which we some time ago made mention, was gotten up by a set of unscrupulous speculators—some of them, it is to be feared, Federal office-holders—for their own selfish purposes. General SCHENCK, who is in command of the district in which the reservation is embraced, has written an official letter contradicting the reports of the discovery of gold; the Secretary of the Territory of Dakota has published a circular to the same effect; and General HANCOCK, who commands the military department, has issued a proclamation warning intending expeditionists that under no circumstances will they be allowed to enter the reservation, as to do so would be a flagrant breach of our treaty obligations with the SIOUX Indians remain unchanged. The government at Washington has also instructed the territorial and military authorities to take all possible precautions to protect the reservation from any incursion of the whites, even if it should become necessary to employ United States troops in doing so.

THE Boston Musical Jubilee will undoubtedly, in some respects, be a grand affair. The list of music with which the various choral societies intending to participate, are required to prepare themselves, includes some of the finest works ever written. Especial pains, it is said, have been taken to have no class of music and no nation unrepresented on the list. This is well. It is to be hoped that the festival may be interfused with a spirit thoroughly liberal and catholic spirit. In all the multifarious mention of the subject which we have seen, however, we do not remember to have observed that any choral society from the South has been invited to be present. It is on every ground to be hoped that our whole country may be represented on the occasion, and that not the slightest tinge of sectionalism may color the proceedings. It cannot be an International jubilee unless it is first made truly national. The committee having the matter in charge should immediately take steps to invite representatives from the Southern States, if it has not already been done.

WINE circulation has been given through the press to a letter purporting to have been lately written by HORACE GREELEY to the editor of the Alexandria, Virginia, *Sentinel*, stating that he was doing his best to forward the success of the Cincinnati movement; but that, while he had no preference as to candidates, yet if there should be an attempt made to insert a free trade plank in the platform, he must be "counted out." Mr. GREELEY denies having written any such letter. He states that several persons who have asked him questions have elicited brief replies, which they have chosen to print, but that this particular note was not an accurate copy of any letter he ever wrote; and he insists that if any correspondent shall hereafter see fit to print his private communications, they shall be given verbatim. It is probable that Mr. GREELEY did write a letter to the editor of the journal in question, but that its contents, as published, are garbled out of their true form and character, a piece of business quite as dastardly and contemptible as if the entire letter had been bodily forged.

THAT which the United States is to the London *Saturday Review* in general, President GRANT is to the New York *World* in particular —a perpetual haunting trouble and gloom. It must be a dreadful thing to be dowered with so omni-creative an imagination, without a correspondent development of the critical faculty to curb it and keep it in wholesome poise. Even in the overturn of the Erie ring, that journal sees hardly anything else but GRANT. General SICKLES having planned and executed the campaign, it argues that, considering the official and personal relations between the President and himself, "nothing is more probable" than that the former has realized a vast fortune out of "the plot," as—in a sudden burst of affectionate remembrance of former friendships enjoyed and benefits received—it indignantly characterizes the movement which sent rogues to the rear and brought honest men to the front. The *World* spins suspicions out of its inner consciousness as a spider evolves webs. Was the President at the bottom of the Southern Improvement Company, also?

THE action of the Republican State Convention of Ohio and Iowa in pronouncing for the renomination of the President, furnishes another interesting chapter in the current serial of "What the non-office seeking masses know about their own business." The resolution of the Iowa Convention instructing its delegates "to vote for and use their most earnest endeavors to secure his renomination," is especially significant, when contrasted with the statements which have lately been made concerning the dissatisfaction said to exist within the Republican ranks in that State. It is every day growing more and evident that the conservative and independent yeomanry of the country, who own Uncle Sam's farm, care nothing for jealousies or catch-words, and have a liking for fair play, are—notwithstanding their little objections here and there—so well satisfied with the cardinal policy of the administration and with the personal conduct of the Executive, that they propose to let the present lease run for another term of years. And now the question is, What are the grumblers going to do about it?

HOW IT IS TO BE DONE.

Late reports represent the Germans as engaged in pushing on the fortifications of Metz and other important points of their new frontier with the utmost energy and zeal. At Metz thirty thousand laborers are said to be employed. Such works are of course only the natural and proper completion of the plans of defence which the Germans had in view when adjusting terms of peace at the conclusion of the war. There are other indications that French threats of vengeance are not regarded beyond the Rhine as mere sound and fury unworthy of attention. There is no relaxation in the measures necessary to maintain a state of vigorous and prompt military preparation ready to meet any emergencies that may arise. Though these signs of continued military alertness and activity are watched and discussed in France with intense concern, they seem to inspire less anxiety than current and ever changing reports concerning the movements of German diplomatists and envoys. For a while the object of Count ARNIM'S journey to Rome was an absorbing topic of conversation among French politicians. The explanation that the Count had gone to fetch his wife would have been satisfactory, if he had not traveled by way of Berlin, a circumstance which invested the journey with thrilling interest. Still greater excitement was caused by the visit of the Grand Duke of MECKLENBURG to Egypt by way of Rome, especially in connection with the long sojourn of Prince FREDERICK CHARLES in the latter city. Peculiar significance was also assigned to the fact that Italian engineers had arrived in Berlin to study the subject of the defense of the Italian coast and frontiers, and it was confidently alleged that General MOLTKE having given them all the necessary instructions, had resolved to visit Italy for the purpose of inspecting the places to be fortified. In France the interest awakened by these reports turned upon the probability of an alliance between Germany and Italy, an alliance which was supposed to have some reference to the Eastern question as well as the subject of mutual defense. In prospect of a German Italian alliance France at once grows anxious regarding her continued possession of Nice. An evil conscience enhances the concern of many Frenchmen, as there is a strong party which favors the interposition of the Powers in behalf of the Pope's temporal power. Though probably quite destitute of the least faith in the spiritual authority of the Holy See, M. THIERS would certainly under other circumstances favor intervention, and while at present resisting the appeals of the Bishops, he is evidently pursuing a temporizing policy with the view of avoiding the recognition of the act of the Italian Government, and in the hope of being able ultimately to propose to French public opinion in his view "Catholicism is a French tradition and an element of power to France," and by Catholicism he means the old system which he has always defended, a church with a temporal as well as a spiritual head. To Catholicism thus understood THIERS and many other French statesmen probably look for the enthusiasm and co-operation by which recent defeats may be retrieved, and by which France is to regain her lost provinces. There are already many indications that the new German empire is destined to find its chief source of weakness in religious divisions. Already a policy of hostility to the empire is fully developed as the policy to be inculcated and carried out in every way at once feasible and prudent, by every agency and influence which the Catholic church has at command. The Old Catholics, as they call themselves, are not likely to increase to any great extent, as their position is essentially false and illogical; so that the great mass of the Catholic priesthood of Germany are and will remain in connection with the church to whose infallible head they owe implicit allegiance. In his great speech of March the sixth Prince BISMARK read the following extract from a letter which he had just received from one of the most distinguished German diplomatists:

> "The revenge so ardently desired in France relies upon the raising of the spirit of religious discord in Germany. Germany united and strong, it can be paralyzed by this division, and the entire clergy, under the influence of Rome and to-day subject to these endeavors, is to further the Romish hopes of the restoration of the secular power of the Pope. In France a mutual understanding, a twenty years' mutual pledge, between the clerical and national interests, is the watchword which is already written upon its flag, Revenge on Germany and the supremacy of the Church, under any form if the government whatever. This is how they hope there to become strong, in this religious conflict, which are to be prepared in Germany through the well organized agitation of the clergy, directed from Rome, Paris, and Versailles. . . . We must not indulge in any illusions on this point; a blow is to be prepared against Italy by the contemporaneous revenge on Germany, so that when Germany is paralyzed or harassed by religious conflicts, the clerical element is again to set up its standard in Italy."

These statements, highly probable in themselves and in the light of the past, are well adapted to enlist among American Protestants a lively sympathy in behalf of both Germany and Italy in their present political relations.

MR. GREELEY'S MANIFESTO.

The first effect produced on most readers by the manifesto of HORACE GREELEY and his coadjutors, (published in Saturday's COMMERCIAL), announcing their concurrence in the principles lately promulgated by the "Liberal Republicans" of Missouri, and their purpose of participating in the proceedings of the Cincinnati Convention, will probably be one of astonishment, not unmingled with suspicion, at the strange and unnatural spectacle presented of the great champion of protection to home industry billing and cooing with the champion of free-trader in the country—Colonel W. M. GROSVENOR, Chairman of the Liberal Republican Executive Committee, to whom the pronunciamento is addressed. Mr. GREELEY may be perfectly satisfied as to the elevated character of the motives by which he is animated, but he will be likely to experience a good deal of difficulty in convincing the people that he has not—to call it by its mildest name—made a grave mistake. The masses of the country are accustomed to think for themselves—are clear of perception, sober of judgment, strong of conviction, and stable of purpose—and it is more than doubtful whether, notwithstanding the respect and esteem of widely entertained for him in consequence of his past services to the nation, he will be able to make any considerable portion of the people believe that he is actuated only by devotion to the best interests of the country.

With the exception of its gratuitous and wholly unwarrantable fling at the Philadelphia Convention, the manifesto itself contains comparatively little that is objectionable. The main points therein set forth have already been repeatedly pressed by the President upon the attention of Congress and the country. He has brought thieves and corruptionists to book, wherever found; he has done much to reform and purify the Civil Service; his last Message contained a strong recommendation for the passage of an Amnesty Act; he has protected all citizens of whatever class or color, in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights and privileges; and while his administration has not been faultless, it has in the main been honest, impartial and economical—one under which the whole country has greatly advanced and prospered.

We do not undervalue the great services of Mr. GREELEY, nor underestimate his popularity and the influence he exerts. But the people are not apt to be swayed by light and transient causes. They believe that President is trying to administer public affairs carefully and conscientiously; and if he should receive the nomination at Philadelphia, as now seems every way probable, they will support him with perhaps even more heartiness than when he came to them a new and untried candidate for their favor. We have had no sympathy with the attempts in some quarters made to drive the reformers out of the Republican party, to cover up abuses, or to postpone important legislation until after the Presidential election. Some of the strongest opposition to some of the best principles of the party has come from persons claiming to be its leaders, and it is pretty safe to assume that to their unwisdom the Cincinnati movement itself in its present shape owing. But the people are wiser and more patriotic than they, and will not fail to discriminate between the mere selfish, lonly personal spirit and their provisional details are of a somewhat radical character and of unquestionable importance. It is, however, alleged by authorities likely to be well informed, that a great majority of the voters are in favor of the revised Constitution, and that the opposition which it meets with is chiefly confined to two or three cantons. In the absence of full and official returns of facts and circumstances, that Col. GRAY was not legally returned from the Fourth District, and that Col. MCCLURE was. What possible connection the manner of that Senator's voting has to do with the question of his right to occupy the seat to which the Senate declared him legally entitled, it is probable no journal except the *Gazette* will be able to see. It is true that Col. MCCLURE was elected as a Republican, but if he were the bitterest enemy that the Republican organization ever had, still the party could do him no harm to see that he was dealt with fairly and honestly. When the *Gazette* suggests that those journalists who set their faces against fraud and knavery—for this, put into plain words, is what is meant by the phrase, "espousing his cause"—will see the day that they will hang their heads for having done so, it sets up a theory which, reduced to practice, would grind into powder the Republican or any other party that adopted it. The COMMERCIAL "espoused the cause" of Col. MCCLURE to the extent of calling for a searching investigation into the alleged abuses, "to the end," we said, "that justice may be accomplished, no matter who is helped or harmed thereby." Col. MCCLURE is the custodian of his own consciences. He violates his obligations or betrays his trust, the people will call him to account. But this has no possible relation to the question at issue. Both Col. GRAY and Col. MCCLURE fade into utter insignificance in presence of the real principle involved; which is, whether we shall have a pure ballot-box and honest elections, or not. Has the *Gazette* become convinced of the doctrines and principles of Tammany—in counting a candidate in, if a friend, and out, if an enemy? If it does not mean this, what does it mean by talking about people "hanging their heads for their work in his (Col. MCCLURE'S) behalf?" Is a Democrat to be defrauded of his rights because his possession and exercise of them might possibly result to a Republican's disadvantage? We take it that the great party of liberty and humanity knows neither favors nor enemies when justice between man and man is at stake. "Because right is right, to follow right is wisdom in its scorn of consequence." But if, in the critical and momentous contest on which the Republican party is about entering, it has no nobler standard of action than that which, in this particular instance, the *Gazette* has set up, it will be brought into graver and more imminent peril than any which it has yet known. Col. MCCLURE'S defection could not harm the party. It is in such teachings as those which are embodied in the *Gazette's* paragraph that its real danger lies.

It only remains to be added that at about the time the *Gazette's* paragraph was written Col. MCCLURE voted with the Republicans for the passage of the bill.

MR. SUMNER has been the object of so much invective, and the subject of so much uncharitable speech, that one may fancy that by this time he rather relishes such signs of his own importance. He may feel that abuse is his element, and it is certainly quite possible that, having attained to a state of chronic indifference to what may be said about him, he fails to derive benefit from criticism, however just it may be. The worst feature of such a state of mind is that it is apt to lead to neglect of self-denial, a coat of habitual contempt being as invulnerable as a robe of sanctimony. When both are worn at the same time by the same person, he may be considered as effectually sheltered from all wounds, which it is in the power of immaterial weapons to inflict. This remark by the way. It is mortifying to learn that even in Germany high placed people talk familiarly about the partisan rancor with which Senator SUMNER pursues General GRANT. Think of it! Our incomparable Senator, our statesman of transcendant talents and admirable accomplishments, who looks down with disdain upon the paltry objects of personal ambition by which common men are attracted, and with pity on the common men to whom such objects are attractive, is directly charged by the politicians of a distant country with contemptible partisanship. The fact is an amazing illustration either of the injustice of mankind, or of the importance of prudence. We prefer to look at it in the latter light. While our distinguished Senator is not only quite free from envy, hatred and malice, and never permits personal considerations really to influence his language or conduct as a statesman, we much fear that he is not sufficiently careful to avoid the appearance of evil. When a man of even Mr. SUMNER'S pretensions speaks and acts as if he were influenced by petty or malignant motives, many people do not pause to consider the improbability of what seems to be a legitimate inference, and his reputation suffers accordingly. However ridiculous the suggestion may appear, we cannot help suspecting that in spite of his great opportunities, Mr. SUMNER is ignorant of the world, or rather that knowing man, he is ignorant of men, and thus through misplaced confidence gives rise to such misconstructions and surmises as injure his good name and distress his admirers. It is a great pity. If we presume to give the great man a hint for the future regulation of his conduct, we can think of no counsel more useful than to avoid the newspaper correspondents.

THE grain and fruit prospects are beginning to excite some comment, now that spring may be said to have put in an appearance. The winter has been a very remarkable one in several respects—in its long duration, its almost uninterrupted coldness, and the scarcity of rain and snow. The frost, in this section, has penetrated the ground to an unusual depth, in some places as much as three feet. The wheat is always more or less injured by the frosts, and farmers are accustomed to note the extent of the injury from the scarcity of snow, which acts as a protection to the roots. But the injury may not be so great as is generally apprehended, since there were few days warm enough to thaw the ground. It is the alternate freezing and thawing which inflicts the greatest injury upon the wheat, and this did not prevail to any serious extent during the winter. In a short time our farmers will be able to form a better estimate of the condition of their fields, and we will be glad to hear from them on the subject. One thing is certain, that the season is almost one month behind that of last year, when most of the plowing was finished up in March. The spring work on the farm, and in the gardens, will therefore be crowded into a few weeks, and there will be an active demand for labor as soon as the ground is fit to turn. In regard to the fruit prospects, statements vary, of course. On the one hand, it is claimed that most of the tender fruits as peaches, cherries, pears, etc., have been winter killed—destroyed in the bud. Persons who have examined their trees report that not one germ in twenty has escaped. This may be true as regards unfavorable localities, but even if it were generally the case, it must be remembered that one germ in twenty, if left to mature, gives a good yield; and the backwardness of the season leads to the belief that little if any damage will result from late frosts. In a general way, the prospects should be regarded as favorable for a fair average yield. It is too soon, however, to calculate with any degree of certainty as to the crops; and our main purpose in referring to it now, is to awaken inquiry among farmers and fruit growers, and invite them to forward for publication, briefly and concisely, the results of their observations.

NOT long ago the New York *Tribune* said, in an article touching the relation of the Cincinnati Convention to the Presidency, that the "protection of home industry was of more importance than the success of any party or ticket." Free trade, the *Tribune* declined to be the adjustment of duties on imports with a view to revenue alone. Yet now, in his manifesto, Mr. GREELEY announces his belief that "Federal taxation should be imposed for revenue," and while he interpolates, as a saving clause, the declaration that it should be "so adjusted as to make the burden on the industry of the country as light as possible," this will not save him from a very general suspicion that he has repudiated the whole of the old Republican political faith, and gone over to his life-long opponents, horse, foot and dragoons. The policy of Protection has constantly been assailed by the chief engineer of the Cincinnati movement, and as constantly defended by Mr. GREELEY. A short time ago the *Tribune*, in an exhaustive review of the commercial side of the subject, after giving certain statistics showing the salutary influences which this principle had exerted, said:

> "Compare these grand results with those realized from the purely Revenue Tariff of 1841-2, whereof twenty per cent. was the ultimate maximum, under which Commerce, Revenue and Credit withered together; so that, in a time of profound peace, we could not pay our current expenses, though they were but Twenty Millions per annum, and, though we had recently paid off the last of our War Debt, we could not borrow Twelve Millions, though our Treasury agents cooled their heels in the antechambers of all the great bankers of Europe. Shall the people have "compared" the results in question, and have not the slightest intention of permitting the lesson to pass unheeded. The only thing to be regretted is that the great apostle of this wise principle of political economy should himself have abjured the doctrine which he has held so long and vindicated so triumphantly. It is a painful spectacle as that of aged CRANMER recanting the beliefs he had entertained from his youth, in order to prolong the embers of his already flickering life. History recites how the one repented some day it may haply have a similar story to relate concerning the other.

THE Convention fever bids fair to become pretty nearly as general as the investigation mania. The latest call that has been issued is one for a convention of private soldiers, to meet at Washington on the sixth of May, composed of one delegate from each Congressional district, for the purpose of organizing "a national league of the rank and file for the protection and maintenance of their rights within the limits of their respective parties," whatever that somewhat vague and indefinite declaration may mean. It is to be strictly a political party movement, and all non-commissioned officers, distinct notice being given to commissioned officers of all grades that their presence is not desirable. It is not likely that the call will elicit any general response from the brave and sensible men who composed the rank and file of our army. No movement based on so clannish and exclusive a spirit as that which pervades this call, even if it may be the objects held in view, will be likely to succeed. Large numbers of our soldiers who came out of the army with bars or stars on their shoulders, went into it as privates, winning every step of their promotion by gallant and heroic conduct. Nor, so far as we have knowledge, have the claims of the private soldier, either upon the country or on the political party to which he belongs, been ignored since the close of the war. The movement will in all probability be a failure.

THERE is a generally expressed desire that some arrangement may be consummated between the government and the Western Union Telegraph Company, by which the operations of the Signal Service may be continued and extended. The present contract expires on the third of June. It is doubtful whether there is any department of the government in which the public money has been expended to better advantage than in this important service. Since the transmission of weather reports began, and the system of cautionary signals was introduced, it is known that immense amounts of property, maritime and otherwise, have been preserved from destruction—probably, also, scores of lives saved in consequence of the timely warnings given. "Old Probabilities" has become an almost absolute necessity of our civilization, and the money required to continue the Signal Service in operation, when contrasted with the numberless important advantages and benefits which it confers, is a mere bagatelle. Let the government practice economy and retrenchment in all wise ways, but to discontinue the Signal Service on any grounds, would be parsimony of the most short-sighted and costly description.

OUR ANSWER.

In a double-leaded editorial paragraph the *Gazette* of yesterday morning says:

> "The first fruit of McCLURE'S success in getting a seat in the State Senate is to find Senator BOOK ready to the apportionment bill, he voting, as we predicted, with the Democrats. What does his supporter, the COMMERCIAL, think of now? after this first exhibition? We shall be disappointed, and agreeably so, we trust, if this does not close the career of this generous and disagreeable member of that body; and we predict that those journalists who espoused his cause, will see by the end that they will hang their heads for their work in his behalf."

"Col. MCCLURE was either elected or he was not. The Committee appointed by the Senate to investigate the case, decided, after a thorough investigation, that he was elected, and that the opposition which it meets with is chiefly confined to two or three cantons. In the absence of full and official returns of State or canton-rights *versus* centralization is made as conspicuous as it was ever made in this country, and many of the same arguments on each side which did duty among us, are found equally serviceable in Switzerland. With the most earnest opponents of the new Constitution a favorite argument is the allegation, that in nearly a hundred years the United States felt no need of a change in their fundamental law, whereas the Helvetic instrument, which some propose to lay aside, dates only from 1848. This constitution, they insist, while answering all needs and securing sufficient unity to the confederation, scrupulously respects the rights of each canton and maintains the republican principle; virtues which, they say, cannot be affirmed of the revised document, which goes to an extreme in limiting the autonomy of the cantons, in depriving them of their recognized peculiarities, and in centralizing everything. *The Swiss*, argue these politicians, *are not a nation, but merely a collection of peoples bound together by common interests; therefore each canton has full right, etc.* Every reader can complete the argument.

The Catholic clergy are especially hostile to the new constitution, because it makes ultramontanism harmless, by giving to the confederacy the right of not only maintaining peace among the different confessions, but also of taking appropriate measures against encroachments upon the rights of citizens and of the State on the part of ecclesiastics and of the churches. In recollection of rather recent events in Switzerland and of still more recent events in Germany, these provisions certainly seem judicious and necessary.

In the event of the rejection of the revised constitution appear to have no great difficulty in showing that all the changes introduced are the suggestions of good sense, in view of the altered internal and external relations of the country. While each canton stood isolated from all the rest, and there was comparatively little of either trade or intercourse among them, there was no manifest need of reform. But the railroad and the telegraph have brought every part of the country into such intimate connection with every other part, that the old obstructions imposed by the petty legislation of the separate cantons are no longer tolerable. It is necessary that the Swiss shall regard themselves and treat others as units of one whole, as members of one nation. Constantly moving about and commingling, the citizens of the different States feel the necessity of having a common legislation for the regulation and control of the various affairs of intercourse. The subject of marriage is taken under federal jurisdiction, and is thus placed beyond the reach of clerical interference. The management of forests, water works, railroads, the Post Office, telegraphs, coinage of money, weights, measures, etc., and the entire military system of the country—all these interests are placed under the central authority. Hence it appears that by the adoption of the new constitution Switzerland will become a strongly centralized power, and the wild, irregular freedom which Mr. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS and his school have been wont to contemplate with such rapture of admiration and reverence, will have perished in its last civilized stronghold. In truth, the system owes its destruction to the progress of civilization, a fact well adapted to intensify and justify the dislike with which civilization is regarded by the philosophers to whom we allude.

German universities are authoritatively closed against women who want to study medicine. Kaiser William's Minister of Public Instruction decides that there is no demand for lady doctors; in other words, that female physic would be a drug in the market.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

There has recently been published a book containing only a synopsis of the decisions made during the year 1871, on the subject of life and accident insurance, and it makes an immense octavo volume. Yet this covers but a comparatively small class of cases, by no means as large as fire insurance, or any one of many other branches of the law. The ordinary human mind starts aghast at the thought of what the law library of the future will come to be.

An ardent young lover of Burlington, Vermont, has broken off his engagement, because, strangely enough, it costs him too much for cigars. He had a habit of carrying his Havanas loose in a side pocket, and somehow could never part from Jemima after an evening's sparking without mashing several of them to pieces.

In his own forcible, straightforward way H. G. says that "the simple failure of a Savings Bank is presumptive proof of villainy." He will not admit of any palliation or excuse that may be offered by the managers of such an institution, and exclaims: "If loss has been incurred, unless by naked burglary, they cannot be innocent."

A citizen of Danbury, Conn., mellowed to a state of profuse geniality by many social drinks, invited a large company of the "splen'd fl'ers" with whom he had partaken, to come and dine with him next day. The next day arrived, and a local paper says that, "when he got home from the store at noon, he was startled to find various strange people carelessly strewn from the gate to the stoop, and spread out on the yard in groups of twos and threes. The first impression was that something sickening had happened, but upon learning the true state of affairs, he was so overpowered by gratitude that he cheerfully engaged with his estimable wife in pouring hot water on those of the assembly who seemed impervious to milder arguments.

Enough of the paternal principle remains in the Austrian Government to induce it to protect the health of the Board of Stockbrokers by forbidding them to transact any business "after the close of day." Thus do the Viennese wake up of mornings fresh and invigorated, while the midnight brawlers of the New York Fifth Avenue Hotel Gold Room rouse from restless slumber drowsy, feverish and fretful.

In Connecticut some anonymous individual has been trying to euchre a candidate for the office of Sheriff of New London county, by writing him this portentous note: "I hold the cards to defeat your election, which I shall proceed to do unless I receive a check payable to my order before Wednesday, March 27, for $100."

Jay Gould's last acces of fortune was—so to speak—the financial Moses of the recent game of Pharaoh played with Erie. At least it was cradled in the "bull rushes" on the New York and other Stock Exchanges.

Boston papers grow savage at the ignoble army of street starers, and one of them says, "a whipping post set up on the Common would find plenty of use if all the 'respectable' Boston gentlemen who habitually insult ladies received a few lashes for their impudence." Such a paragraph as that scarcely justifies the general impression that the press of that city always spoke we'el o' the Hub.

Indianapolis mourns a suspension of work on its prospective big hotel. That mammoth caravansary is to be six hundred feet square, contain street by 202 feet on Ohio street and an incalculable number of stories high. The failure of the directors of the enterprise arose from their inability to finish a $200,000 structure with $100,000 of capital. On a new financial basis, however, they promise to more carefully complete what has been so extravagantly carried thus far.

Jacksonville, Florida, papers make the allegation, that two hundred and thirty alligator skins were received there the other day.

An agent of the wonderful Barnum menagerie has arrived at San Francisco, bringing with him two enormous alligators, five smaller ones, a young South American tiger, a Mexican deer, a chameleon, and five iguanas. One of the alligators weighs about 1,200 pounds, and is of course, the largest ever caught.

The Collector of the town of Olive, on the Rondout and Oswego Railroad, had a legal process in the nature of a detainer to serve on a train which stopped within the limits of his bailiwick. So he and his men went slyly to work to pass a chain through the back end of the rear car, but before it could be fastened to anything, the train was suddenly made aware of how matters stood, and he threw the throttle wide open, and started the train with a jump. The effect on the Collector's posse, who had hold of the loose end of the chain, was the same as that on the Indians who attempted to capture a train on the Pacific Road with a lariat.

Curling "soap root," as a substitute for stuffing hair matrasses, is an extensive branch of manufacture in California, and is rapidly increasing. Mattrasses filled with it ought to be self-washing.

An artless newspaper man, who lately bought a few sausages, thus relates his troubles: I got them sausages home without getting bit; and I cut them apart and left them. In the morning I visited them. Three of 'em had cuddled up together, and were sleeping sweetly. Two of 'em had crawled to my milk pail and were lapping the milk, and one, a black and white one, was on the back fence trying to catch an English sparrow. I drowned the whole lot.

Two bootblacks in Louisville last Tuesday undertook to drive off with a horse and wagon, because the owner did not come back, as he had promised, to pay them for polishing his boots.

What will become of the masculine youth of less regenerate cities, when Boston boys have to be arrested for desecrating the Common and all traditions of the Hub, by stoning and shooting at the sparrows?

A mineral substance possessing the properties cauutchone is said to have been discovered in Australia. These gum deposits are reported as inexhaustible

Only to think that the immediate descendants of the Otaheritans, who gave Captain Cook such an unpleasant reception, should now be manufacturing artificial ice and retailing it at five cents a pound.

Savannah now claims to have been the first city that had a paid fire department. As early as 1820 such of her gallant citizens as ran with the machine received the munificent recompense of twelve and a half cents an hour while on duty.

Juvenile recruits for the army of crime and vagabondage, to the number of fifty thousand, are said to be growing up in vice and idleness in New York.

Wilmington, Delaware, is said to be built on an old farm, once belonging to the Springer family. The property is now worth about $80,000,000, and the recent discovery of an old lease is said to show a clear title for the heirs to every foot of it. Elation on the part of the Springers and a large number of lawyers is only natural.

Government control of the telegraph in England, is said have produced a profit to the revenue of $250,000. But this does not prove the same system would be successful here. In the United States wages are higher, territory more extensive, and the proper functions of the National Government much more circumscribed than in England.

Among the half dozen or so of people who still believe in the genuineness of the Cardiff Giant, is Mr. McWhorter, a graduate of Yale in 1847, and a man of great erudition. He has written, and is about to publish, an elaborate essay, in which he attempts to show that the statue is that of a Phœnician god, imported centuries before Columbus and prohibitory duties existed. He rests his argument on the chemical composition of the stone, on the repetition of certain curves and angles, on the type of its face, and on inscriptions upon it in the Phœnician character.

A member of the Greeley, Colorado, colony purchased a $800 diamond wedding ring the other day of a Cheyenne jeweller, and one of the poor families has a set of gold table knives which formerly belonged to a noble English family. These are the right kind of people to "go west, young men—go west, and buy a farm."

Monograms are out of date. They have been entirely superseded by crests. The New York *Mail* says, "No family should be without one; the children cry for them."

Seven pounds and three quarters is a pretty good weight for a rat, especially if he has a tail fourteen inches long. Such a one was killed last Tuesday in his store by Mr. W. S. Cummins, at Great Bend, Ohio. It is worth while securing the death of such a rodent, even at the expense of a ducat.

The elegant tastes of our ancestors were exemplified at a sale of rare books in Paris the other day. One was a fourteenth century, illuminated, Gothic edition of the Bible, with gold clasps, set with turquoises and bound in human skin. There is, it is said, but one other such binding in existence—that of a copy of the well known "Imitation of Christ," now in the Carmelite Library at Paris.

IN the late Consistory held at Rome the Pope appointed four bishops to dioceses in the United States, as follows:

Cleveland, Ohio.....Richard Gilmour
Fort Wayne, Indiana.....Joseph Dwenger
Ogdensburg, New York.....Edgar Wadhams
Providence, Rhode Island...Thos. Hendrickson

THE motion for a new trial in the case of Emanuel Shaffner, convicted at Harrisburg on a charge of murdering his wife by poison, has been denied, and the prisoner sentenced to death.

PERSONAL.

"Grace Greenwood" says of Gen. Bidwell, that he is "a distinguished Californian and much respected, though he *has* been a member of Congress."

Some one has discovered that Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth has killed off more than seven hundred of the characters in her innumerable romances. Well, hasn't her deadly writing made lively reading for no end of people?

Mr. Wm. M. Carleton, of "Betsy and I are Out" fame, is giving recitations in the western wilds of Michigan.

A Chicago paper, whose salutatory article promised "to improve the tone of journalism by avoiding unnecessary personalities," refers, in its first issue, to Mr. Dana, of the New York *Sun*, as "that infamous blackmailer and pirate."

Rev. Amos Poorman who recently tried unsuccessfully to organize a church in Lima, Ohio, has accepted the charge of a Lutheran church at Tannersville in the same State, and is not now such a poor man as he was.

George Francis Train electrified an audience of twenty-one persons at Syracuse, New York, the other evening.

Sir Charles Dilke, the eminent republican humbug of the British House of Commons, complains that Queen Victoria has a dozen physicians in her household. His complaint is nothing to the number of those which must exist in the royal family to render the services of so many doctors necessary.

Fernando Wood—according to an admiring Washington correspondent—is "the completest gentleman in the House of Representatives, judged by his manners." Furthermore, that "he never gets his feet higher than his head, nor smokes, neither loafs nor lounges; is industrious, and shows his good breeding even in the way he writes, to say nothing of his courtliness of manner in regard to others; is tall, straight, wears his black frock coat buttoned in front, encases his neck in a standing collar, and has an air of general fastidiousness. His hair is gray, his eyes small, his nose large, while at its base lies a stretch of white moustache, looking like a snowdrift." All of which is worth several dollars a line for even one insertion.

Wachtel's hoarseness in Chicago was an expensive casualty to Carl Rosa. Colonel Wood, of the Museum, insisted on the penalty to his bond, and it cost Parepa's husband $2,000 to settle.

A young man named Sherman, son of a wealthy commission merchant in New York, became infatuated with Miss Acheson, one of the ladies of the ballet at the Grand Opera House, and unfavorably married her. Indeed the newspapers not to say anything about it, so the *Sun* and *Telegram* took special pains to elaborate all the details and publish them in full.

Rev. Thomas K. Beecher enters a vigorous protest against church bells, and says no church has the right to disturb the quiet of a town that way. He should have tried his hand, or rather head, at editorial work in Pittsburgh during Holy Week, when every equinoctial gust was laden with the melodious clangor of our own beautiful Trinity.

Edward Waltz, of Elizabethport, N. J., flonted the young affections of one German girl he knew in favor of another. Number One thereupon procured a revolver, and last Friday tried six shots at the fascinating swain while he was tripping the light fantastic at a ball. One of the bullets struck him in the leg, and there is now no waltz for him except in time. But he came unpleasantly near taking part in the dance of death.

The winter of the discontent—or more correctly speaking the discontent of the Winter—of the New York *Tribune*, at what it unfeelingly calls "the everlasting skin-and-bones and carrotty hair in which, of late years, so much of the feminine intellect of the stage has been enveloped," is now made glorious summer by the dazzling glory of Carlotta Leclercq—the charming actress to whom Fechter owed nearly all the success he met with in this country. It says: "She is refreshing to behold—as she bodies health and the enjoyment of life, possessing warmth, color and natural buoyancy."

At the recent entertainment given by the Japanese in Washington, it is said that "one of the embassy, reaching for a small Japanese flag on the chandelier, to present to a lady on his arm, a United States officer shoved him aside, and, taking out his sword, hacked and hewed at it to bring it down for himself, until the lamp shades were shattered over the table." This uniformed disgrace to the army should either be sent back into the service or society he has been used to in private life, or detached for immediate and prolonged duty among the Apaches.

A bold behold a bevy of beautiful girls from the Wells Female College at Aurora, N. Y., went to Syracuse to hear Nilsson, and, the concert being over, some of them were presented to the lovely Swede. As they took leave of the object of their admiration they were affected to tears. One pretty girl, evidently "far gone," was heard to exclaim: "I can't see Nilsson, but I just kissed her trunk!"

Rev. Archibald Brown, educated in Mr. Spurgeon's college, has recently had completed for him a tabernacle in East London, only second in size to Mr. Spurgeon's. Which is